



# Northland Area Family Service Center Annual Report 2018



**Mission: "We provide education, mentoring and support services that build strong individuals and families in the Northland Community Schools District."**

**Vision: "As a result of our work, we are breaking the cycle of generational poverty one family at a time."**

Northland Area Family Service Center is an independent non-profit agency physically located in Remer, Minnesota however, serves residents living in the entire Northland School District. Begun by a group of concerned citizens whose goal was to support families in our area by making them stronger, the Family Center has continued to serve area residents through the collaborative efforts of public and private agencies, community members and Northland Community Schools. The Family Center continues to reach out to the community by developing programs that build on the strengths of all participants.



## Family Support

**Staff:** Linda Leverty



**Who we served in 1820 open hours: 1035 total connections:**



- Resource and Referral
  - To outside sources (BiCAP, Food Shelf, HHVS (and other services): 205 clients
- 35 clients accessed Family Center computer for unemployment services, job searches and forms that we have available.
- 17 clients received assistance from Family Center staff to complete application forms for Bi-CAP & Cass County Health Human & Veterans Services.
- 89 clients received assistance regarding MNSure, for applications or had questions.
- 257 persons faxed paper
- 5 clients accessed the phone
- 88 people were provided with other "in-house" assistance
- 239 people accessed copies
- 10 persons accessed postage
- 90 visits to the Baby Steps Boutique were recorded





**HEALTHY FAMILIES MINNESOTA  
FAMILY CENTERS HOME VISITING**  
*Serving the Communities of:  
Northland, Pillager, and Pine River-Backus Areas*

## Program: Family Center's Home Visiting

**Staff:** Lee Anne Bettenberg – Family Support Specialist

**Program Goals:** Build and sustain community partnerships to systematically engage overburdened families in home visiting services prenatally or at birth, cultivate and strengthen nurturing parent-child relationships, promote healthy childhood development and growth, and enhance family functioning by reducing risk and building protective factors.

- The Northland site completed 244 visits during 2018 with 11 families.
- Families surveyed felt the program supported and strengthened their parenting.
- The program is guided by an Advisory Board, which meets quarterly.
- Pine River-Backus, Pillager and Northland Family Center each have a Family Support Specialist and work as a team with two Family Center Directors to provide this program.
- Retention rates are very high for the families currently involved.



**3 Years of engagement  
2016 – 2019**



# PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM

## 50 YEARS OF PROVEN SUCCESS

## Program: Parent Child Home Program (PCHP)

**Staff:** Connie Iverson, Christine Desmond and Angie Zwart – Early Learning Specialists

A weekly home visiting program that offers free books and toys, with ideas for using them, to families with children age 18 months - 2½ years of age! This program is for families who may have a decrease in their income, or family stress such as isolation, issues with housing, food, and clothing.

The Parent Child Home Program (PCHP), as stated on their National Site, "Envisions a world where every child enters school ready to succeed because every parent has the knowledge, skills, and resources to build school readiness where it starts: the home." The Mission Statement states that the Program provides "Families with the necessary skills and tools to ensure their children achieve their greatest potential in school and in life"...It is a "Proven school readiness program that builds early parent-child verbal interaction and learning at home. Together we are strengthening families and communities, and preparing the workforce of the future."

"Parents discover their role as their children's first and most important teacher, assisting them in building brighter futures for their family, and preparing children to be successful students.

### Gunnar moves on to Preschool after participating in PCHP

Vicki was a first-time mom who experienced health complications of pregnancy when Gunnar was born. Vicky and Gunnar participated in the Healthy Families America Home Visiting Program and were referred by the Home Visitor to PCHP. Gunnar's speech was not developing and his behaviors reflected his frustration. Through the PCHP program, Gunnar and Vicki were introduced to sign language. Gunnar caught on quickly and his frustrations with communication became less of a barrier. Throughout the second year of PCHP Gunnar's speech slowly emerged. Gunnar and Vicki graduated from PCHP in May of 2018. Gunnar started attending the Northland Family Center Preschool in September 2018.



**In 2018 - 23 Families were served with a ½-hour visit twice a week. Program runs mid-September to the end of May. This is a 2-year program.**

# Family Center Preschool

Family Center Preschool is part of the Northland Early Childhood Collaborative. Our goal is to provide learning opportunities within a rich caring environment to better prepare each child for kindergarten.

**Staff:** Deb Dillard –Teacher, Faye Zorman and Randi Robison - Assistants

## January 2018 - May 2018

### Statistics

3 day/wk children: 4

4 day/wk children: 7

**Spring 2018: 11 children to attend VPK at the Remer School**

**Parent volunteer Hours – 56**

**Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences – 90%**



Just another day at the castle!



Kenzlee and Alex are taking food orders from Gabe and Brayden at the Lobster Shack.

**September 2018 – December 2018**

**Statistics**

2 day/wk children: 3

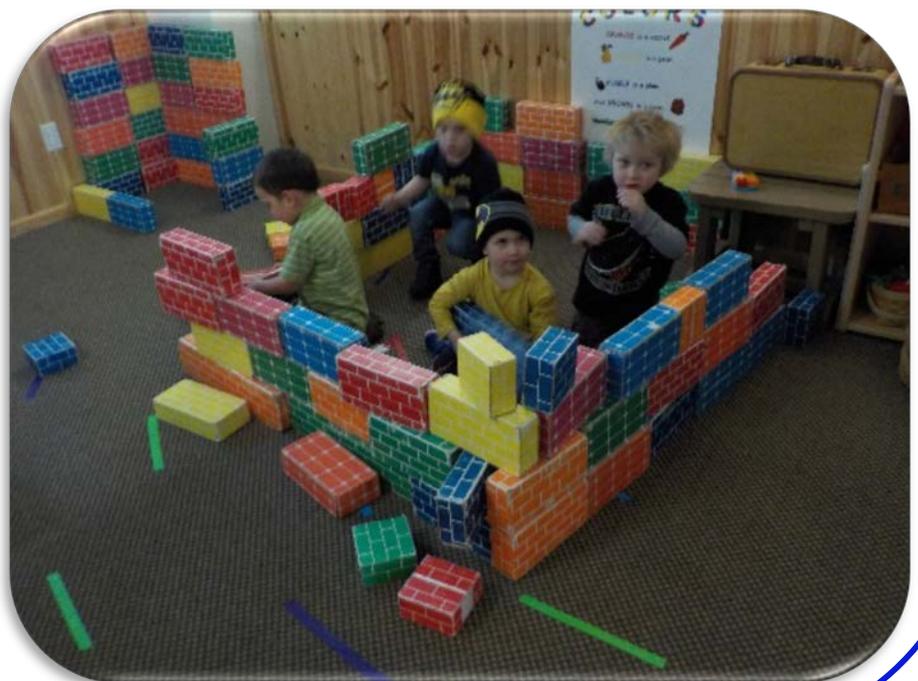
4 day/wk children: 10

**Parent volunteer Hours – 62**

**Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences – 92%**



The girls set out a picnic and were soon joined by some company.

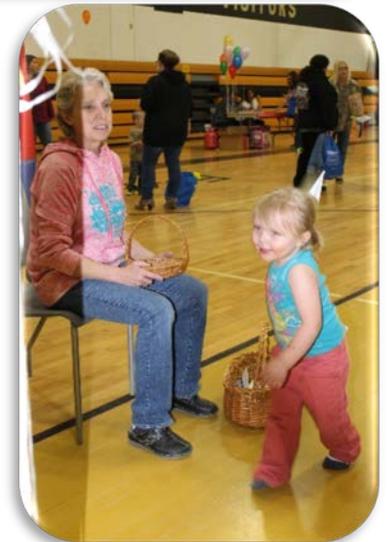


The boys built a big boat and are headed down river. This collaborative effort required a good bit of ability to use their language skills, work together, and follow a plan.

# Northland Family Fun Nights

## Staff: Family Center Staff

- 2 Family Fun Nights at Remer Elementary with 137 combined total of adults and children attending
  - Combined 42 families attended
  - 29 Free books were given during May 2018 Family Fun Night
  - Average of 22 workers/volunteers attending each fun night
- Fall Feast at Sugar Point Community Center – with collaboration of Leech Lake Head Start, Northland Community Schools and Northland Family Center Preschool
  - An awesome meal for approximately 85 people with all the preschool classrooms, staff and community members from Sugar Point





## Child and Teen Check Ups (C&TC) Outreach

**Staff:** Linda Leverty

### Outreach efforts

- Mailed reminder letters to families in Northland School District who are on Medical Assistance for health checkups
- Linda attended 2 Family Fun Nights
- 12 WIC Clinics were offered at the Family Center

## Toys For Kids

**Staff:** Volunteers

This is the fourth year the Family Center collaborated with volunteers to help area children have a brighter holiday. The Family Center served as the fiscal host for donations. Volunteers coordinated the program and distributed the gifts to families before the Holidays.

Served 54 Families – 137 children



# Camp Scholarship

**Staff:** Linda Leverty

Northland Family Center was the fiscal host and applicant of the Pohlad Camp Grant, which allows first time students who would normally not receive a camp experience to attend camp on a scholarship. 2018 was the last year Funding will be available through the Pohlad Camp Grant. Partners working to recruit first time campers include; Northland Family Center, Pine River – Backus Family Center and Family Safety Network. Our students choose to attend Camp Olson in Longville, MN. The camp location is nearby thus reducing the barriers for parents to transport. YMCA Camp Olson has continued to provide us with an additional discount to help us send more students to camp. Northland sent 8 students to camp. In 2018, we hit our goal with our partners, by sending 20 students to camp. Student and parent feedback on their experience showed that families were highly satisfied with their camp choice and experience.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have partnered with us on our work during 2018. Volunteers provided 352 hours of their time furthering our mission. The list would be too long to include here. We appreciate the gifts of money and talent in helping us provide education, mentoring and support services that build strong individuals and families in the Northland Community.

If you would like to learn more check out our website:

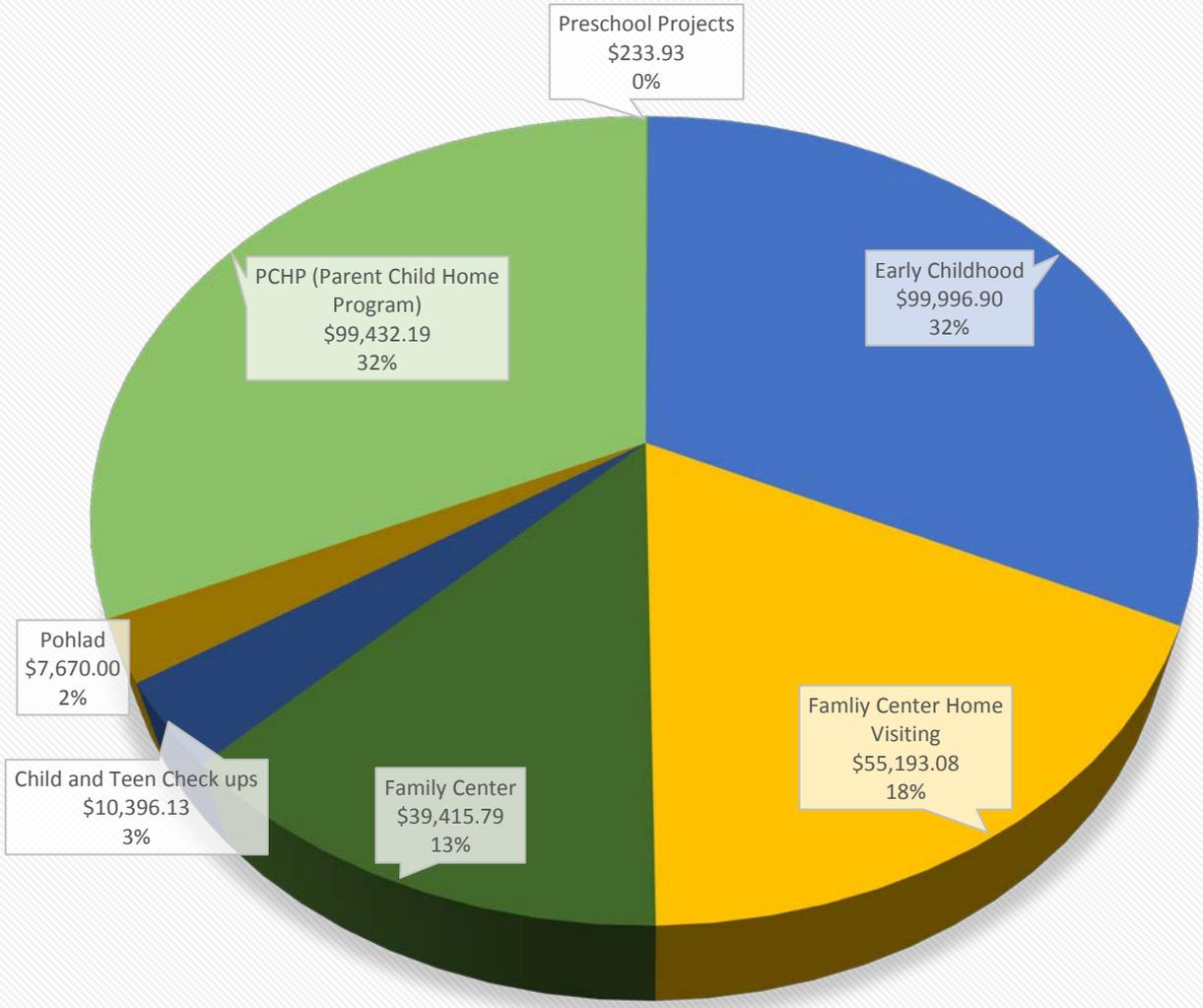
[www.northlandfamilycenter.org](http://www.northlandfamilycenter.org)

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# 2018 Program Cost



- Preschool Projects
- Early Childhood
- Family Center Home Visiting
- Family Center
- Child and Teen Check ups
- Pohlad
- PCHP (Parent Child Home Program)





PCHP 2018 Graduates



Family Fun Night Books!!



Learning Together  
Board and Staff Retreat



About us ~ who and where we are:

**Family Council**

*Officers*

President: Barbara Anderson  
 Treasurer: Cheryl Desoto  
 Secretary: Kit Arnquist

*Directors*

Bev Gaines  
 Stacey McKinney  
 Marlyn Holman  
 Katie Johnson

**Staff**

*Executive Director:*

Leslie Bouchonville

*Home Visiting:*

Connie Iverson  
 Christine Desmond – (ended June 2018)  
 Angie Zwart – (started August 2018)  
 Lee Anne Bettenberg

*Preschool:*

Deb Dillard  
 Randi Robison  
 Faye Zorman

*Administrative Manager/Program Support*

Linda Leverty



**Our Service Area**



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