



The Exchange Club Family Resource Center

A word from the Director

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*Children
deserve to have
intact and safe
families....*

Generally, the families working with our Parent Aide program have wonderful outcomes. Over 75% of the families demonstrate improvement in parenting and life skills as they graduate from our program; however, even our best efforts are not always enough to keep a child out of foster care.

We had one such experience in 2017, as I had to share with two small children that they would go to a different home for a while...and they would have to go without their mom. It is one of the hardest conversations I have had in a long time and a conversation that no child should have to experience. I share this story because I hope to communicate to you that **if the FRC services were not available, there would be more children in Rome living in foster care, there would be more abuse and neglect, and there would be more broken families continuing in the cycle.** For the family we served---as true with many in Floyd County--there were no suitable friends or family members available to help while this mother got back on her feet: Not. One. Person. Better than homelessness and better than unsafe and erratic family members, foster care was the only option for these two children. I am proud of our agency as my staff worked hard along

with the outstanding DFCS case managers to look for alternatives. When we realized there was no option, we worked together to reduce trauma for the children and create a transition plan.

I share this story because not every case we see has an ending that keeps every family together, but we can serve as a graceful contact for those who need us when they are having severe difficulties. The Family Resource Center serves as a touchstone for those who are scared and tentative about taking control of their lives and the lives of their children. The mother in this case experienced significant abuse and neglect as a child and much trauma in her adult life. It is easy to see how the cyclical nature of a life of abuse and neglect brought her to such a hard place in her own parenting experience.

Our work is important---now and in the future. Children deserve to have intact and safe families. Having stability in the home greatly increases the likelihood of a child growing to be a contributing member of society. The FRC... and YOU...do this work because we want children to have safe homes in which drugs and violence and abuse are not welcome. We do this work to help families and children achieve their poten-

tial. We do this work to improve the foundation of our society. I am determined and committed to continue this work..it DOES make a difference and we make a bigger difference because of you.

Here are some testimonials that came from our clients this year:

"Thank you for all your help & for believing in me. I could not have done it without ya'll." (Tammy)

"This program is so helpful and teaches so many important skills as far as parenting and life skills. My parent aide was outstanding, a great teacher and friend. She deserves an award and pay raise for all the time she devotes to her people. I do not know what or where I would be without yall." (Joann)

Tina Bartleson
Executive Director
Family Resource Center



***"Thank you for
all you have
planted in me...
Growth. You are
my angel in
disguise."***

The Family Resource Center Celebrates Christmas!

Each year our staff and office volunteers enjoy an annual Christmas breakfast feast at the FRC. This year, we also enjoyed a special tribute from one of our clients. This single grandmother is now raising two children and has felt overwhelmed by their needs. She has done well in our program and wanted to honor her Parent Aide. Just before our breakfast, she came bearing a miniature Christmas tree and a special note: *"The year is ending but my growth is only beginning as I present you with this tree. It also symbolizes my tool I carry with me... "Growth!" With your help I planted new roots and I now look forward to change as I watch my children grow and watch life grow. Just as this tree, I will gain new strengths and continue to grow. Thank you for all*



Services Provided (January-December 2017):

Exchange Parent Aide Program			Supervised Visitation			Parent-Education	
Families	Adults	Children	Families	Adults	Children	Adults	
137	192	275	6	9	17	303	

Exchange Parent Aide Services:

As our core program, the Exchange Parent Aide program provides in-home parenting and life skills training to families with children aged 0-12 who are at-risk of child abuse or neglect.

In 2017, we delivered approximately **3800 hours of direct service** to families participating in the Exchange Parent Aide program. In addition, **56 families successfully graduated** from our program.

Supervised Visitation:

We gladly provided this service for a number of years but phased out Supervised Visitation services in October 2017 so that we can focus 100% of our resources toward prevention. We passed the mantle of this service to another local agency (*Restoration Rome*) as it is a better fit with their mission.

Parent Education:

Through open-access parenting seminars, we provided education on a variety of parenting topics using evidenced-based curriculum.

2017 Referrals:

216 families were referred for Parent Aide services in 2017 from the following sources:

Referring Agency	Families Referred
Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) –	159
Self-referrals	17
Other agencies	17
Physicians/Hospitals	12
Court	3

Face-to-face contact with made with 80% of referred families and 85 new families enrolled in our Parent Aide program in 2017.

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In 2017, YOU and our event sponsors raised \$88,000 to prevent child abuse!

Events are one of the top ways the FRC raises funds to support its child abuse prevention programs. The Family Resource Center is truly a community agency and we appreciate all our event participants and sponsors that are our Partners in Prevention.

Night at the Movies

We had over 400 attendees at the 2017 Night at the Movies raising \$23,440 for the prevention of child abuse.

We thank our event sponsors:

Emmy: Harbin Pediatrics, River City Bank, Stor-It Mini Warehouses

Golden Globe: Coosa Valley Credit Union, Home Instead, ROC, United Way

Oscar: Ball Corporation, Babcock Agency, Brinson Askew Berry, Exchange Club of Rome, Heritage First Bank, JBM Office Solutions, Rep. Katie Dempsey, McRae Smith Peek, Ralph White, Ready or Not Entertainment

Jim Bishop Memorial Tee Off Against Child Abuse:

Nineteen golf teams raised \$13,413 for the Family Resource Center.

Our event sponsors were: Heritage Auto Group, Madison Financial & Associates, Paper Recovery of Georgia, Rehab Techniques, Talley Insurance

Gary Tillman Memorial 32nd Clocktower 5K Road Race & 2 Mile Health Walk

450 runners and walkers raised \$35,766.

Advance Rehab, Benjamin Edwards, Chick-Fil-A, Coosa Valley Fair Association, Cycle Therapy, Coosa Valley Credit Union, Rep. Katie Dempsey, Exchange Club of Rome, Floyd Healthcare Foundation, FMC, Garner & Glover, GNTC, Heritage Auto Group, Heritage First Bank, Hi-Tech Ad Specialties, KC Homes, Kindred Hospital, McRae Smith Peek, Performance Physical Therapy, Pridemore-Cox Orthodontics, ProPerformance, Ralph White, Redmond Regional, River City Bank, Rome Orthopaedics Center, State Mutual, Tedesco Law Office

Get a Jump on Child Abuse

Futurebirds gave a great night of music at Rome City Brewing Company on October 6th. We thank our “finish line” sponsors for their support in raising \$7,104.

Winners Circle Sponsors: Exchange Club of Rome, Ledbetter Properties, Lewis Chemical, Profile Welfare Association of Rome, Ralph White, Tedesco Law Office, Terry Simmons Insurance, Wendys.

Strike Out Child Abuse

The annual bowling tournament sold out before we could even advertise it in 2017, raising \$8,378.

Event Sponsor: Vargo Orthodontics

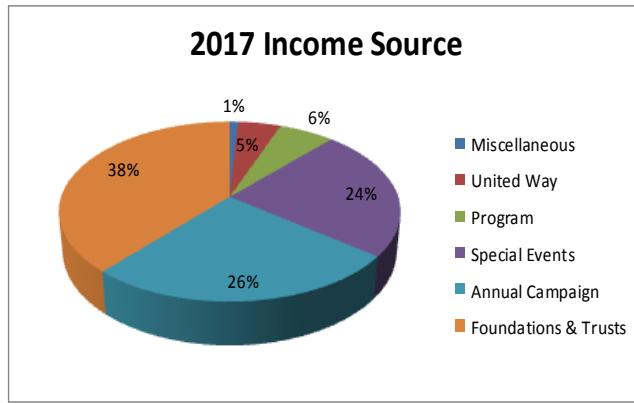
The FRC strives to be good stewards of the funds

you entrust to us. In 2017:

- 80% of all funding was applied to programs & direct services;
- 15% covered our operating costs; and
- 5% was allocated to fundraising.

In 2017, our income was \$372,576 and our expenses were \$377,915. We ended 2017 with an operating account balance of \$78,908 and \$49,350 in our Endowment Fund.

If you have questions, please call Tina Bartleson at 706-290-0764.





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Blanket Buddy & a Book Program

The Family Resource Center is so thankful to have the partnership of Mary Yarbrough and her group of volunteers at the Rome/Floyd Commission on Children and Youth who craft wonderfully soft blankets for children participating in our Exchange Parent Aide program. We deliver these blankets to the children

along with an age appropriate book.

Snuggling together and reading is a perfect relationship building activity for parents and children. We encourage our clients to take advantage of this opportunity every time they have a chance.

