



Family  
Connections  
INC.

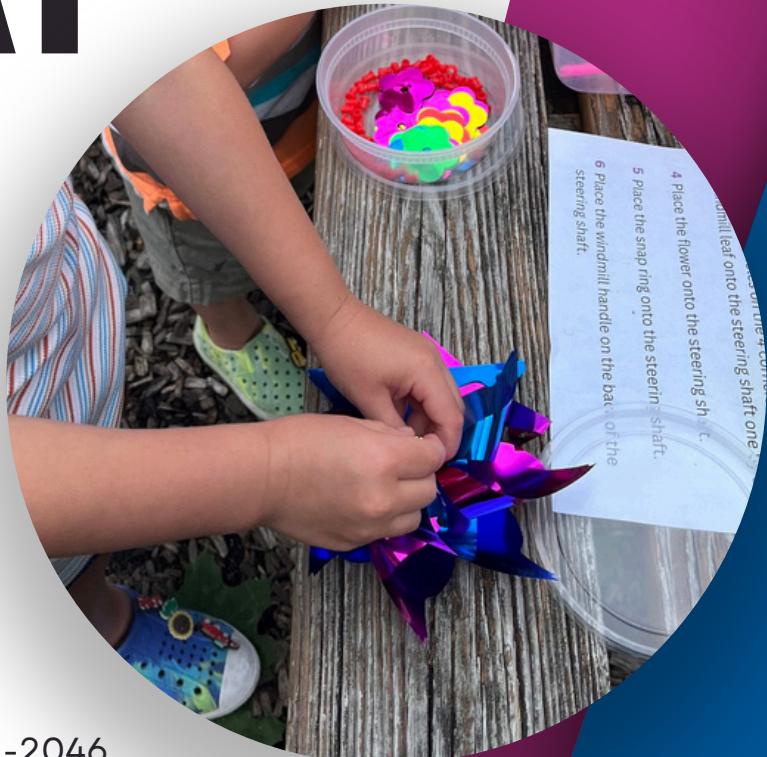
# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## CONTACT US

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

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# MISSION, VISION & VALUES

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Family Connections supports and educates families and early childhood professionals to promote healthy child development and strengthen communities.

## VISION STATEMENT

Services are available and easily accessible by families and child care professionals, so every child is prepared to thrive.

All children, regardless of economic status, religion, sex, race, or special needs, receive high quality, affordable care.

All parents seeking assistance in child care are educated on quality in child care environments and the resources available to their families.

All child care providers working in early learning, education, and care environments are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve by families and communities alike.

## VALUES

### Family

- Resilience
- Connections
- Knowledge
- Support
- Communication

### Child Care

- Professional Development
- Technical Assistance
- Recruitment
- Resource and Referral

# YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

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**IN 2024, FAMILY CONNECTIONS, INC. PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS, FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY:**

**74** trainings were offered to providers involving a total of:

**885** hours of continuing education

**710** child care providers participated in the trainings

**15** families received enhanced child care referrals

**25** families were enrolled in the Connections Scholarship Program

**115** adults and **142** children participated in the Parent Café workshops

**848** families were visited through the Welcome Baby Program

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAININGS

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**74**  
trainings offered to  
providers

**885**  
hours of continuing  
education

**710**  
child care providers  
participated in the trainings

## PARTICIPANT NUMBERS

Active Supervision	85
ASQ (Ages and Stages)	53
CPR with AED	274
First Aid	3
Fundamentals of Family Child Care	17
Fundamentals of Infant & Toddler Care	45
Guiding Behaviors	80
Introduction to the Child Care Profession	61
Pyramid Model	25
Skills & Strategies for the Child Care Teacher	50
Darkness to Light with Mandated Reporter	6
Strengthening Families	11

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAININGS

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

“ This was a good learning experience and I'll take this information with me in my career. ”

“ I really enjoyed the training and learning the different techniques. I plan to take some of these strategies back to my center. ”

“ This training was good and very thorough. ”

“ This will be great to implement at our facility. The material was very helpful and will be a great tool. ”

“ The training was very informative. The trainer did a great job explaining everything. ”

“ Very informational. I feel like the skills and strategies we heard about will be easy to implement while being very effective. ”

# CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

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## CHILD CARE REFERRALS

15

families served through  
enhanced referrals

Family Connections supports families in finding child care by offering a free Child Care Referral service. When a family contacts us, they are connected with a Referral Specialist who then helps them start their child care search.

## CONNECTIONS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

25

families enrolled in the  
Connections Program

Family Connections provides financial support to families in Sheboygan County who struggle to pay the cost of high quality child care. A portion of each family's child care fees are paid by Family Connections using grant funds.

# ARPA

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## CHILD CARE START-UP AND EXPANSION

**76**  
child care slots created

**\$52,214.66**  
invested

**3** licensed child care programs opened

**1** certified child care program opened

**4** child care programs expanded

## ON-SITE SUPPORT

Family Connections conducts on-site visits to support child care teachers who are dealing with children who are exhibiting challenging behaviors.

On-site support has benefited...

**8**  
programs

**14**  
teachers

**13**  
children

# ARPA

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## REDUCED TRAINING COSTS

In 2024, ARPA funds were used to help reduce the cost of trainings for child care providers in Sheboygan County.

**\$6,375**  
reduced in training fees for  
child care providers

**CPR** **65** free **84** discounted

**First Aid** **4** free

**Strengthening Families** **20** free

**Keeping Kids Safe** **8** free

**Guiding Behaviors** **18** discounted

## RETENTION BONUSES

**\$273,998.75**  
paid in retention bonuses

**1,180**  
child care teachers received  
retention bonuses

# WELCOME BABY

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**848** families visited through the Welcome Baby program

**923** hospital visits

**307** parents qualified for Parents as Teachers

**177** parents who agreed to Parents as Teachers

## THROUGH THE WELCOME BABY PROGRAM, FAMILY CONNECTIONS DISTRIBUTED...

**17,000** diapers to families

**848** baby hats and onesies



United Way of  
Sheboygan County

# PARENT CAFÉ

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## COMMUNITY PARENT CAFÉS

**115** adults participated in the Parent Café workshops

& **142** children participated in the Parent Café workshops

**February 13: Spanish Café** (Sheboygan) - 14 adults and 24 children

**February 14: Community Café** (Manitowoc) - 12 adults and 11 children

**March 2: Dad's Café** (Sheboygan) - 6 adults and 3 children

**March 7: Community Café** (Sheboygan) - 12 adults and 22 children

**March 13: Community Café** (Manitowoc) - 14 adults and 12 children

**April 10: Community Café** (Manitowoc) - 11 adults and 5 children

**April 16: Spanish Café** (Sheboygan) - 12 adults and 23 children

**May 9: Parents of Teens Café** (Sheboygan) - 3 adults and 1 child

**June 1: Dad's Café** (Sheboygan) - 9 adults and 7 children

**October 9: Special Needs Café** (Sheboygan) - 8 adults and 14 children

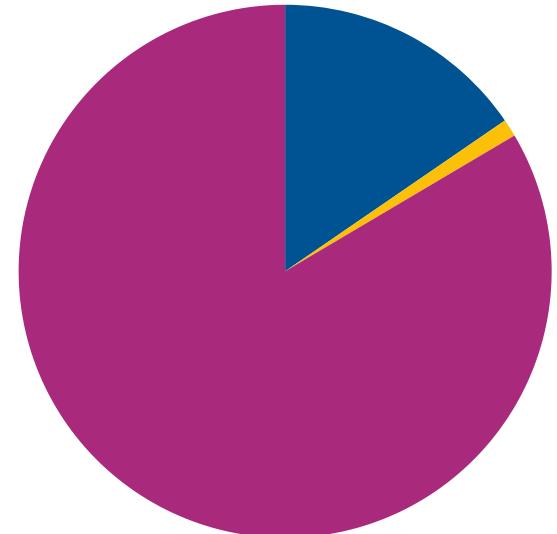
**November 20: Community Café** (Sheboygan) - 11 adults and 15 children

**December 14: Dad's Café** (Sheboygan) - 3 adults and 5 children

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

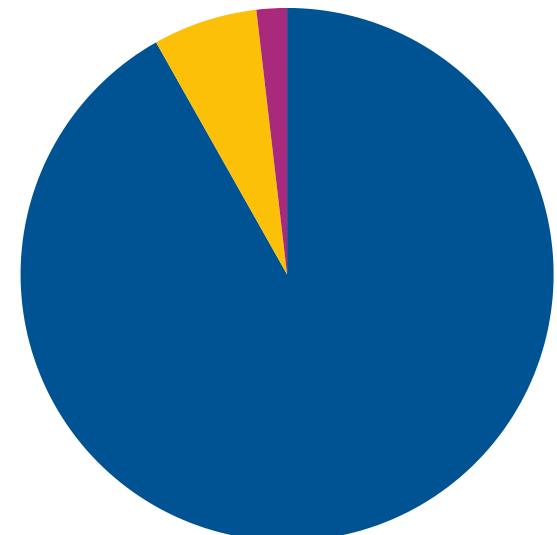
## REVENUE

Contributions/Donations	<b>\$166,557</b>
Fundraising	<b>\$11,511</b>
Grants	<b>\$901,460</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,079,528</b>



## EXPENSES

Program Services	<b>\$936,186</b>
Management & General	<b>\$64,611</b>
Fundraising	<b>\$18,783</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,019,580</b>



# STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

“  
They had availability and flexibility, along with quality content.  
”

“  
They are always there to help and guide and support. We appreciate them.  
”

“  
Family Connections is an incredible resource for our community and child care providers.  
”

“  
Our center appreciates the opportunities to improve child care and to connect with other child care providers.  
”

“  
They are wonderful!  
”

“  
We would love to find more ways to partner with Family Connections in 2025.  
”

“  
The staff is very friendly.  
”

“  
They always go above and beyond in helping support us.  
”

“  
We love them and would have felt very alone in this field if not for them.  
”

# STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

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## FAMILY CONNECTIONS STAFF

Colleen Steinbruecker *Executive Director*

Terri Schultz *Family Support Coordinator*

Michelle Christus *Early Learning Support Specialist*

Michele Hemb *Family Support Specialist*

Deb Streblow *Welcome Baby Resource Specialist*

Shanda Yang *Welcome Baby Resource Specialist*

Mary Katarincic *Early Learning Support Specialist*

Erin Williams *Recruitment Specialist*

Gabriela Bucio *Marketing & Outreach Specialist / Administrative Assistant*

## FAMILY CONNECTIONS BOARD MEMBERS

### Executive Board Members

*President* Mike Gustafson - Executive Director Sheboygan Falls YMCA

*Vice President* Tami Prunik - Special Needs/Mental Health Manager Sheboygan County Head Start

*Treasurer* Rebecah Wickert-Carini - Wisconsin Bank and Trust Banking Center Loan Manager

### Additional Board Members

Jason Lederman - Director of Special Education and Pupil Services Sheboygan Area School District

Katie Randall - Program Coordinator Fond du Lac County Birth to Three

Luke Wacek - Brand Manager Johnsonville

Kathryn McKillip - Principal Early Learning Center

Robyn Wise - Public Health Nurse Fond du Lac County Health Department

# DONORS

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