

Transform

INVESTING IN OUR VISION



FamilyForward is at the forefront of working with vulnerable children and families in our community. We know children thrive in safe families, and we work to ensure a stable and nurturing home that helps them succeed.

A significant milestone for the future of supporting our community took place this fall with the purchase of property that will become home to FamilyForward's expanded Developmental Trauma Center campus.

The 9.5-acre site located on the edge of North St. Louis County includes two existing buildings totaling more than 41,000 square feet of space, allowing us to enlarge our geographic footprint and serve more children and families in the region. The two existing buildings will be renovated and sit in a park-like setting surrounded by green space, walking paths, and recreational areas that can be used by clients and staff.

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GROWS HOPE

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Dear friends,

December provides an occasion to assess the challenges and achievements of the past 12 months and look forward to opportunities for the coming year.

When we developed our Strategic Plan in 2018, we committed to aligning the organization with developmental trauma to best understand and address abuse, neglect, prevention, and treatment. During this time, we have seen an increase in the need for our services and the clients we serve.

With your continued commitment to supporting children and families in the community, FamilyForward invested in property that will become the home of our Developmental Trauma Center campus.

We are now uniquely positioned to support even more children and families impacted by neglect and abuse because of our staff's hard work, strategic guidance from our board members, and strong, unwavering support from our donors and partners.

Our community is at a turning point, and the need to help is greater than ever. Regardless of your role with FamilyForward, each of you is an essential part of our next chapter. I can't wait to see what the future holds for FamilyForward!

Happy holidays!



Karen Nolte

Chief Executive Officer,
FamilyForward

Thanks,

Karen

How You Can Help

For information on ways you can support FamilyForward, contact Jessica Dederer at jessica.dederer@familyforwardmo.org.



VOLUNTEER



**MAJOR
GIFTS**



**MATCHING
GIFTS**



**COMPASS
GIVING CLUB**

CONTINUE FROM P.1



“The impactful work for children and families that will take place at this campus is the realization of our vision and will bolster our community for generations to come.

- Karen Nolte,
Chief Executive Officer,
FamilyForward

Construction and remodeling are scheduled to begin in early 2022 and continue until the campus opens in the late summer or early fall of 2022.

FamilyForward is embarking on this development because the need for trauma prevention and treatment services in our region is great – and growing. We continue to experience increases in the number of children and families served, with clients experiencing waiting lists for our services. We will be uniquely positioned to continue providing the leadership required to address the complexities of child abuse and neglect and educate others once construction is completed.

The new campus will allow us to integrate all developmental trauma services in one location, increase our overall capacity and expand services for children and families by serving 50 percent more children and families by 2026. The campus will include an Early Childhood Center with an expanded Therapeutic Preschool, allowing us to support more young children who have experienced trauma.

We will continue to grow staff and expand our high-quality training and education opportunities by becoming a regional hub for understanding and treating childhood trauma for professionals who work with children impacted by abuse or neglect.

Our vision is to lead the region in providing innovative solutions that help children and families lead safer, healthier lives. This campus is another crucial step in making our vision a reality, and we are thankful for the resources and steadfast support from our community to make it possible. For additional information and to learn ways to help, contact Jessica Dederer at Jessica.Dederer@familyforwardmo.org.

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

The Thompson family came to us in late 2019 for parent coaching but were facing much more dire issues within a few months due to the pandemic. They endured the stress of lost jobs, three children aged seven, nine, and 13 struggling because of a lack of structure at school, and mental health issues that began to bubble to the surface. And then...a car accident that took away their one source of income.

FamilyForward was there to walk alongside them throughout this challenging time. We provided them with mental health services, supplied each child with a Chromebook for online learning, and helped with car repairs. Our dedicated staff continues to work with each family member – helping to strengthen their relationships with one another and have fun as a family again.

Thank you for the confidence you've already placed in FamilyForward. Please consider making a year-end gift so that together we can be the difference between a setback and a step ahead.



Ways to give

Securely online at
familyforwardmo.org/journey-forward

Check or credit card using
the enclosed envelope

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

FamilyForward *Transform* is published to further our mission and to acknowledge our partners in achieving this mission. Client confidentiality is essential: names of clients have been changed and photos are stock photos, unless we have received client authorization to do otherwise. For corrections or questions, please contact the Development department at 314.534.9350 or via email at chris.trahan@familyforwardmo.org.

Jessica Dederer

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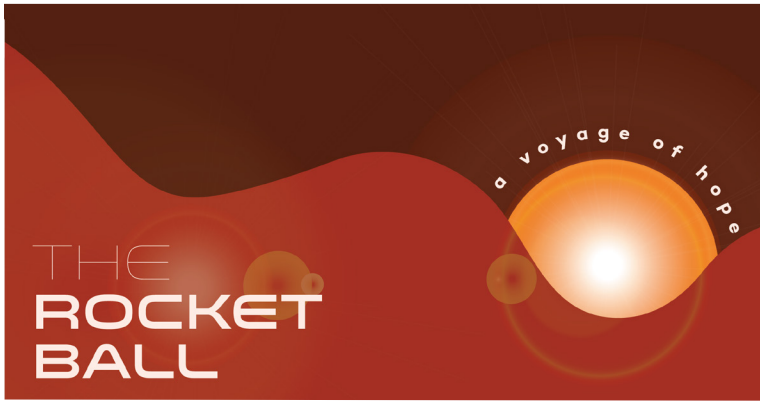
Chris Trahan

Marketing and Communications
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5,478

Our Impact

5,478 children, their families, and
community members were served by
FamilyForward in 2020



THE ROCKET BALL

Join us, in-person, Saturday, February 12, 2022, for our Rocket Ball at the Union Station Hotel in downtown St. Louis. This beautiful venue offers an evening you won't forget and is expansive enough to allow for a safe gathering. Your attendance helps support children and families in our community.

Visit familyforwardmo.org/rocket-ball for event and ticket information.

 **SAVE THE DATE**
Saturday, February 12, 2022 | St. Louis Union Station Hotel



“The staff has been so welcoming and understanding in helping my daughter overcome her behaviors, primarily due to trauma. When COVID hit, and the schools closed, I didn’t think there was any hope for her. But she was able to attend the therapeutic preschool, and it’s really changed her life. She is back at her school and excelling in her studies. FamilyForward is a life saver for our family!” FamilyForward Client

ALBERICI CONSTRUCTORS GROWS HOPE

A solid supporter for more than 6 years, Alberici employees aren't afraid to get their hands dirty. Several employees from the company came out Saturday, September 11, to help transform an open space in South St. Louis city into a beautiful therapeutic garden. The garden, designed with input from a team of FamilyForward therapists, will be used by the children and families we support.

Alberici is a firm believer in giving back to the community. Senior Project Manager Earl Ming volunteers on the FamilyForward Governance Board. On behalf of Alberici Constructors, Earl presented a \$1,000 donation to support kids and families in the St. Louis area.



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Thank You!

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for children and families

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St. Louis County
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Keeping Kids First



safer, healthier relationships
for children and families

OUR VISION

FamilyForward leads the community in providing innovative solutions for advancing safer, healthier relationships for children and families.

OUR MISSION

FamilyForward moves vulnerable children in the direction of hope by delivering comprehensive therapeutic and educational services to support biological, foster, and adoptive families.

Transform | WINTER 2021
ISSUE .13