

40 Years of FCC: More than a shelter



CAP Services' Family Crisis Center (FCC) recognizes its 40th year of service in 2018. The FCC started in 1978 as a result of input from CAP's Community Needs Assessment survey, which identified a need for a safe place to stay for survivors of domestic abuse.

That period of time was fraught with many leaders who did not believe domestic abuse existed in our community. Others believed domestic abuse to be a necessary fact of life, like one law enforcement officer who said during an early organizing meeting that "a woman might need a tune-up now and then," an attitude that was unfortunately all too common.

FCC staff and leadership have worked tirelessly to educate, inform and advocate, ensuring others understand the realities of domestic abuse and its consequences. Domestic abuse is not an issue of someone having a bad temper, it is about someone exerting power and control over another often through fear, intimidation, isolation and abuse.

That work led to meaningful change, both in the lives of survivors and in the larger community. By 1995, four counties – Adams, Portage, Waupaca and Waushara – had formed Coordinated Community Response Teams (CCRTs). Representatives of law enforcement agencies, the judicial system, corrections, schools and health providers joined advocates in a commitment to a community-wide approach to domestic abuse that stopped blaming victims and held perpetrators accountable for violence. CCRTs continue to be active in the work we do today.

The FCC was envisioned as a rural model that maximized resources by sheltering both victims of domestic abuse and runaway youth/youth in crisis. State officials have more than once questioned co-locating these groups. Forty years of service have proven the model can work, with child and youth services remaining an important part of what we do today.

Over the years, the FCC has expanded its programming and its reach. The FCC operates programs dedicated to the needs of sexual assault survivors, transitional living for survivors of domestic abuse, and bicultural and bilingual services to central Wisconsin's Hmong- and Spanish-speaking populations. It also maintains full-time staff at offices in Waupaca and Waushara counties. The FCC has grown with its clients and the communities it serves to be so much more than just a shelter, but an instrument of healing and transformation.

We extend our appreciation to the many donors, partners and volunteers that have made the FCC what it is today. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future as we move together toward a time when such services will no longer be needed.

-Mary Patoka, CAP Services' President and CEO

On behalf of CAP's 2018 FCC Advisory Board:

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And in memory of the late Betsy Altenburg, Advisory Board member 2008 - 2018

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Family Crisis Center highlights

September 25, 1978
CAP Services officially opens the Family Crisis Center (FCC) on Second Street in Stevens Point. The FCC was created after CAP's 1977 triennial needs assessment survey identified a community need for a safe place for survivors of domestic abuse. Initial funding came from a federal Community Services Administration rural project pilot grant. The initial service area included Adams, Marquette, Portage, Waupaca and Waushara counties.



1979 FCC receives its first United Way of Portage County funding allocation, a relationship which remains strong today.

1980 24-hour crisis line services expand to include those in need of mental health services.

FCC is one of the first programs to receive funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services for domestic violence services.

1983
Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) is established independently and begins providing advocacy services to Portage County residents in January of 1984. FCC is licensed provide emergency foster care.



1981 FCC moves to 1503 Water Street in Stevens Point.

A Youth Advisory Council forms in July and begins offering services to runaway youth.

1989
CAP purchases eight acres of property on West River Drive in Stevens Point for its Human Development Park. A new \$250,000 home for FCC will be part of the park.

1990
FCC introduces its Domestic Abuse Alternatives Program (DAAP) as a 15-week group for men in violent relationships. Jean Banks from FCC and Charlie King of Children's Service Society lead the first group. DAAP is discontinued as a stand-alone program in 2016.



1991
Construction is completed, FCC moves to 1616 West River Drive.

1993 Outreach office opens in Waupaca. FCC and community partners form a Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) in Portage County, working together to improve services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Within two years, CCRTs are established in Adams, Waupaca, and Waushara counties.

Outreach offices are added in Adams and Waushara counties, to better serve clients there.

1994 Transitional Living (TL) housing program begins with duplex mobile homes in Wautoma and Stevens Point for those leaving abusive relationships.

FCC launches a videotape project to educate local healthcare professionals on signs of domestic abuse.

2002
FCC's Advisory Board introduces the Take A Step 5K, a fundraising run/walk.



1995
Refugee Family Strengthening (RFS) is created to provide culturally specific family violence education to the Hmong community in Portage County. The program is later renamed Hmong Family Strengthening.

2003
FCC recognizes 25 years of service. SAVS expands to Waupaca.

1999
Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS), a partner organization since 1995, officially merges with CAP. Transitional Living apartments are added in Marquette County, the 13th and 14th overall TL units.

2005
Hairdresser Project is implemented to turn salons into safe spaces for survivors of domestic abuse to talk and learn of resources.

2008
White ribbon campaign is organized for men to demonstrate their commitment to ending domestic violence.

2013
FCC launches "Flip our House" initiative in recognition of its 35th Anniversary. Activities include painting and cleaning the shelter and upgrading its furniture.

2015
Secret Garden project is completed, providing a safe, private outdoor space for play, gardening, healing and contemplation for women and children staying at the shelter. After 20 years without any significant improvements, kitchen remodel is completed.

2001 A \$200,000 Capital Campaign facilitates completion of a 1,900-square-foot expansion to the FCC. Shelter is occupied every day of the year for first time in its history. CAP's Adams County services end. A Baraboo-based domestic violence shelter assumes the services there.



2017
FCC partners with Diverse & Resilient's Room to Be Safe program, expanding its commitment to serve all genders, races, ethnicities, income levels, abilities and sexual identities.



Recognizing the Family Crisis Center's 40 years of service to the community!