

Preserving a Legacy of Safety Net Collaboration in Suburban Ramsey County

Why The Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative (SRFC) is a Value-Added Organization in Suburban Ramsey County:

- **SRFC continually assesses community needs, formalizes systems of care, builds community capacity and engages new partners** to support children, youth and families whose health, learning, safety and security are at risk.
- **As Keepers of the Safety Net** they listen to their stakeholders, strategically partner and create innovative solutions to address gaps that only collaboration can produce.
- **As needs change, so does the focus of the collaborative.** Action research and data drive decision making.

The Six Most Significant Things SRFC has done for Suburban Ramsey County:

1. **Collaboratively served 124,364¹ children, youth and families² since 1998.** These prevention/early interventions services have catapulted progressive family, social and systems change.
2. **Cultivated over 270 functional partnerships and became a competitive collective fundraiser receiving grants for evidence based curriculum, programs and services.** Since 1998, SRFC raised \$11,012,127 in grants for services Suburban Ramsey-wide; and helped leverage an additional \$1,254,574.00 for Suburban Ramsey district-specific grants, and \$6,642,895 to enhance services Ramsey County-wide for a total of \$18,909,596 in added funding for Ramsey County-wide communities. *Some examples of these funders and programs include:*
 - *McKnight grant for Cultural Liaisons,*
 - *Knight Grant for Foundations for Success (ASQ-SE); Incredible Years,*
 - *St. Paul/Mardag/Bigelow Foundations for After School/Summer Programming,*
 - *Federal grant for Safe Schools/Healthy Students educational reform efforts (PBIS),*
 - *DHS for School Linked Mental Health,*
 - *United Way for Community Dental Outreach Services*
3. **Created tools that supported data-based decision making** (*Measured threshold risk factors and benchmarked MN Student Survey Data for 14 years. Implemented standardized School Climate Survey*)
4. **Facilitated community-wide risk prevention efforts** (*Ramsey Countywide Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition, Investing in Youth Chemical Health Use and Abuse Prevention*)
5. **Created and marketed products that amplify the wisdom of under-represented Suburban Ramsey youth, parents and practitioners** (*“Ear to the Ground”, “Investing in Youth”, “Thriving with Your Teen”, “Tell Someone”, Latino, Hmong and Somali Parent’s Focus Group Results, Parent Engagement Poster; The Resource Table*)
6. **Addressed gaps in services by actively partnering with practitioners, families and community members to create responsive innovations, many of which are now self-sustaining or embedded in school districts or agencies*:**
 - **Created essential School-Linked services** (*Chemical Health Specialists*, School-linked mental health (IMH); Community Social Workers (CSW)*)
 - **Coordinated local, community-based employment supports** (*Work Resource Hubs*);
 - **Created an Innovative Collaborative Transportation Resource Center** (*Moved 11,552 passengers with the Transportation Resource Center*)
 - **Facilitated Early childhood mental health and Dental Health systems of care** (*Foundations for Success, standardizing the ASQ-SE*, PICOH*)
 - **Supported emergent immigrant and refugee populations and engaged culturally specific services and supports for children and families of color** (*Cultural Liaisons*, Bicultural Services*),
 - **Supported educational reform initiatives** (*School Connectedness*, PBIS*, School Safety Audits*, Interdisciplinary Teams*, District Coordinators*)
 - **Addressed housing instability and homelessness** (*engaged the faith community in developing and sustaining Community Support Centers*)

¹ Duplication may occur as one child or family may access multiple protective services. Just as risk factors cluster, so must protective factors.

² Suburban Ramsey data shows that children of color experience a disproportionate number of risk factors compared to those of their white peers. SRFC has responded by providing supportive collaborative services to over 50% youth of color in the past 8 years.