



FALL 2019

# newsletter

*Where Compassion Meets Action*

*the future is*  
**BRIGHT**

Phone: 406 442 6950 Fax: 406 442 6571 [inquiries@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:inquiries@florencecrittenton.org) [www.florencecrittenton.org](http://www.florencecrittenton.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

Florence Crittenton provides innovative, comprehensive services and nurturing programs that engage and empower children, young adults and young families to thrive and build productive lives.

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## WHO WE ARE

Florence Crittenton is a leader in family-centered treatment and services. We provide effective intervention and prevention services to families of young children. With the support of partners like you, Florence Crittenton offers a comprehensive array of services, including therapeutic residential care, home visiting, community parenting classes, outpatient treatment services for mental health and substance use disorders, and early education and childcare opportunities for children 0-5.



### Dear Friends,

*Greetings my friends! I can't believe I am writing this letter to you all as the new Executive Director at Florence Crittenton! What an honor it is to be selected by our Board of Directors to guide and lead this incredible organization. The rich history and important work we do here at FC is not lost on me, and I want you all to know I take this position with the utmost respect for those that have come before me. I have been so blessed to work with the incredible Barb Burton for the past 10 years. I have learned so much from her, not just about the organization and the work we do, but how to be a leader and guide with kindness and patience.*

*Florence Crittenton is alive, well, and thriving! With Barb's leadership and guidance over the last 2 decades and the support of all of you, we are ready to move into a new era of serving and advocating for families. We have made so many great strides in continuing to serve young parents and their children the last few years, as well as expand to serve more families out in our community. But our work is not done. I am so excited about the opportunities ahead to help families achieve long term success and be thriving members of our community. These are not easy endeavors and there will be challenges to overcome. They will take time, they will take patience and diligence, and they will take the continued support of all of you, our valued partners and community members.*

*I look forward to working with you all and hope I am able to connect with each one of you in some way in the coming years. My door is always open and I invite you to stop by for a visit any time! Thank you for your continued support.*

Warmly,

Carrie Krepps, Executive Director

**A very special thank you to Barbara Burton, our former Executive Director. Barb retired in September after 22 years of service to Florence Crittenton. Thank you, Barb, for your years of service and your commitment to ensuring young families have every opportunity for a bright future! If you would like to make a donation in Barb's honor please visit our website or call the Development office at 406.442.6950 x204.**



**FOLLOW US!** Florence Crittenton Home & Services

## FOCUSING ON THE EARLY YEARS

While Florence Crittenton is best known for our residential programs, our early childhood services offer high quality childcare programs for children throughout the greater Helena area. With your support and partnership we are offering incredible opportunities for learning and social-emotional development for over 25 children. Here's just a few things parents are saying about these programs.

*"There are a multitude of reasons we chose Florence Crittenton Preschool, but a few of the primary reasons are a **highly qualified staff, wonderful learning facility and an organizational commitment to enhancing the lives of people from all backgrounds.** This has created an ideal learning environment for our son to develop with the aid of a great curriculum and wonderful enrichment programs. The incredible staff at the Preschool makes all these things possible. They are prepared, insightful and understanding. The work they do is instrumental in child development at a critical time. To have such an adept staff paired with an absorbing learning environment is more than we could ask for.*



*It would be difficult to fully state the difference that Florence Crittenton made in our family. Finding ideal learning environments during early formative years is difficult, so when you are fortunate enough to find an exemplary preschool it makes all the difference to a family. Seeing our son **happy and learning every day** brings a lot of joy to our family and encourages us all in positive ways.*

*~Leah Hathaway & Jered Lynch*



*"As a new parent the idea of finding childcare when my ex-wife returned to work was daunting. How do you pick someone to care for your child 8 hours a day? Luckily, we were informed by someone of the Child Enrichment Center at Florence Crittenton and how well their children loved the program. I had no idea that such a place existed within the FC organization, but we did some research on their website and quickly made a tour date. After seeing the facility and hearing an explanation of their program and policies the Child Enrichment Center completely grabbed our attention. I loved the setup of the room at the CEC. It is filled with a vast assortment of toys, games, and equipment to help any child learn and grow. **Of course, the best part of the program is the staff.** They are such an exceptional team. Wonderful at communicating any need, issue, or entertaining story from*

*the day. As a first-time father it was nice to ask them their opinion on certain development milestones or any tips they had to help with day to day struggles. One of my favorite things I learned, as did my daughter, was a trick of laying her coat on the floor and then flipping it over her head to get it all the way on. Not only is it easier for her to get arms through the sleeves but it is fun! She always gets a big smile on her face after getting her coat on all by herself. After Willow turned 2 she was transitioned into the FC Preschool. This program is just as robust and excellent. In just the few months she has been there I have seen a tremendous growth in her emotional and social development. **You cannot ask for a better place to take care of your child.**"*

*~Patrick Fradette*

*"While I was pregnant and working, I was desperately trying to find a place for childcare that made me comfortable and feel welcomed. My coworker suggested Florence Crittenton, so I inquired about openings and got my name on a list. After Willow was born, I got a call close to when I was going to return to work and scheduled a tour.*

*As soon as I walked in, I immediately felt at ease with the care providers who answered all of my questions. I knew that Florence Crittenton would be the best place for Willow. Her first week there was great, and I got to know the care providers over the next 21 months. It was soon time for her to transition out of the daycare and moving her to the Florence Crittenton Preschool was the only thought we had. **She comes home happy and asking questions about things she learned.** The talent and knowledge of all the staff is amazing, and it is so very apparent how much they care for the children."*

*~Kayla Mann*

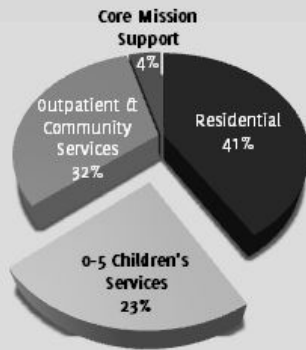
**Turn the page to learn more about these important programs you are making possible for our community.**



# YOUR SUPPORT

## ZERO TO FIVE PROGRAMS

Florence Crittenton Programs



Did you know childcare has been part of our programs since it first opened in 1900? Today, Florence Crittenton Early Childhood Programs serve children from birth through 4 years old. Our state-licensed programs provide early childhood education services to families residing in Florence Crittenton's residential programs, and the greater Helena community. Our Child Enrichment Center (CEC) serves infants and toddlers ages 0-2 at our main facility. The Florence Crittenton Community Preschool is located in the Helena Learning Center and serves children aged 2 through the summer of their 4th birthday year. In August of 2019, our preschool celebrated our first-year anniversary!

### CONTINUUM OF CARE

*Florence Crittenton works to achieve our goals through 3 divisions of services: Residential Services, 0-5 Children's Services, and Outpatient & Community Services. FC programs provide a continuum of care depending on the intensity of needs and type of support for each family. We maintain a philosophy that every family deserves to be treated as a whole family, with dignity, compassion and respect.*

*This is the second of 3 installments of a deeper explanation of each of our services and how they provide a comprehensive continuum of care for our families, and lasting change for our communities. See the Spring Newletter for Residential Services.*

### SUPPORTIVE INCLUSION AS A BEST PRACTICE

Our staff recognize that a child learns best in a setting that includes children of all abilities and backgrounds. We believe that it is never too early to begin receiving the highest quality educational opportunities, and feel strongly those opportunities should be available for all children. Through the support our organization receives from partners such as the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, our centers offer financial assistance and scholarships to several families. We also participate in the Best Beginnings Scholarship Program.

Our programs also work in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) federal funded Child and Adult Care Food Program to provide nutritious breakfasts, lunches, and snacks to all the children we serve. Meals served at our centers follow CACFP meal pattern requirements and include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and dairy products. We also make every effort to support families with children who have special dietary needs.

### INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION

Our educators understand that the entire process of developing an individualized curriculum must remain fluid and responsive to the child. The range of development and the sheer scope of learning that takes place during the first three years of life ensure that the pace of change can be rapid. To meet our children's needs, our teachers plan and implement a responsive curriculum that is adaptable as children master skills, encounter new tasks, practice, practice, practice...



# AT WORK

and emerge from one stage to another. We seek to provide a stimulating and supportive environment that encourages opportunities for learning and exploration, as well as provide activities that match children's chronological and developmental age, their abilities, and interests.

## HIGH QUALITY STAFF

Our team of early childhood experts provide a developmentally appropriate and rich environment to stimulate and nurture growth and development across all areas. Our teachers believe the early years of education are fundamental for instilling social and individual characters that make the world a better place. Our everyday environment focus on modeling and reinforcing self-esteem, friendship, empathy, cooperation, independence, and emotional health. Our teams actively teach and provide opportunities to engage in our programs' three core values of safety, responsibility, and respect. To ensure our children are given the adequate attention they need and deserve, our preschool teacher-to-student ratio is 4 adults for every 18 children. Our CEC's ratio is 2 adults for every 8 infants with an additional adult during a large portion of the day.

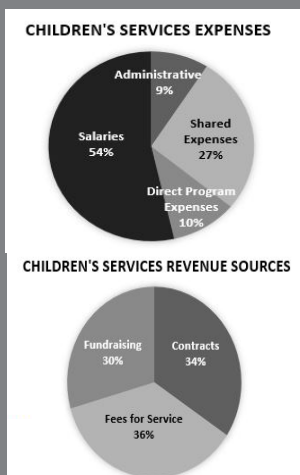


## BEST BEGINNINGS STARS TO QUALITY – LEVEL 4!

In July 2019, Florence Crittenton's CEC and Preschool achieved a Level 4 status with the Best Beginnings STARS to Quality program. Currently, our programs are 2 of the only 4 childcare centers in Helena that achieved this level. The STARS to Quality Program is a voluntary quality rating and improvement system that aligns quality indicators with support and incentives for early childhood programs and early childhood professionals. Our programs follow the Pyramid Model, an important component of STARS, which is a conceptual framework of evidence-based practices for promoting young children's healthy social and emotional development.

## YOUR INVESTMENT CHANGES LIVES & OUR COMMUNITIES

Many people don't realize the critical role quality childcare plays in our economy.



- U.S. businesses lose \$3 billion annually due to employee absenteeism as a result of childcare breakdowns. Childcare support decreases employee absences by up to 30% and job turnover by as much as 60%.
- The investment in children early pays off big for our communities. Investments in childcare have a rate of return as high as \$16 for every \$1 in a community. In Montana, the early learning sector generates more additional spending in the economy than other major economic sectors, coming in at \$1.61 compared to such as construction at \$1.49 and mining, oil, gas at \$1.37.

If you would like more information on how your business can support your employees' childcare support options please contact Brittney Shirley at 442.6950 x205, or [brittneys@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:brittneys@florencecrittenton.org).

Information based on  
FY2020 budget.

# YOUR COMPASSION IN ACTION

## Your Support at Work

Florence Crittenton works every day with families to ensure they have the tools they need to give their children every opportunity to succeed and be productive members of our communities. This work is only possible with YOU, our loyal donors and partners. The success of each family is a direct reflection of your support. Here are a few ways you made a difference for families across our communities this past year:



**233** Individuals served in residential and community based programs in FY19



**121** Families served in residential and community-based programs in FY19



**3,112** Number of nights in FY19 where women and their children slept in a safe and stable place through our residential programs



**26** Children currently receiving high quality early education, care, and developmentally appropriate play in our community childcare programs.

For more information on our programs visit [www.florencecrittenton.org](http://www.florencecrittenton.org)

## PROGRAM UPDATE: Recovery Home Sees Successful Start

Two years ago Florence Crittenton embarked on a journey to address the challenges of substance use disorder that our clients continued to face. As substance use hits an epidemic level in Montana, the young families we serve are not immune to the dangers and destruction the disorder causes to those that struggle with the disease, as well as their family. We as an organization knew it was imperative to address these needs with the families we serve.

With your help and unwavering support, we are happy to announce we will be graduating our first set of families from our Recovery Home this fall! These women have put in an incredible amount of work and commitment to their recovery and building the best life possible for their children. All have overcome incredible barriers along the way, but with your support and the care from our amazing staff, they have overcome these challenges and each family has a bright future ahead. Thank you for your trust in our organization as we started this very important program and continue to serve these families that deserve a chance at a bright future.

*Save the Date*  
PAINT THE TOWN  
PINK

**Saturday, February 8th 5:00pm - midnight**  
**Lewis & Clark Fairgrounds**

The event of the season is back for another incredible year. Tickets go on sale in December! For the most up to date information visit the PINK website at [www.paintthetownpink.info](http://www.paintthetownpink.info).

To donate or volunteer, contact Darby Belcher at  
406.442.6950 x216, or  
[darbyb@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:darbyb@florencecrittenton.org).

## BE PART OF THE CHANGE

*YOU can be part of the incredible changes that happen every day at Florence Crittenton. No matter how you give back to your community, we encourage everyone to make philanthropy your own. Florence Crittenton is for everyone, let's move forward together!*

### FAMILIES NEED GIFT CARDS!

Gift cards are a great way that you can assist young families: Target, Walmart, or Visa gift cards are a HUGE help during the holiday season and throughout the year! YOU can help young families purchase clothing, food and household items they need.

### MAKE A CASH DONATION

Unrestricted cash donations is a convenient and incredibly helpful way to support the families at Florence Crittenton any time of year. Cash donations support the general operation of our programs, as well as help us address ongoing maintenance needs, staff training, and immediate needs of our clients.

### BECOME A BELIEVER

Believer's Circle members make a monthly or quarterly cash donation to support the programs at Florence Crittenton. Monthly gifts are a great way to make a small donation each month that really adds up. A \$25 monthly donation becomes a \$300 gift for the year! **For more information or to sign up as a Believer, please contact Deniese Dempsey at 442.6950 x204, or [deniesed@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:deniesed@florencecrittenton.org).**

### HOST A GIVING TREE

Does your office, church or civic group share treats and goodies during the holiday season? How about hosting a giving tree to collect donations, gift cards and other items for young families in need? Giving trees are a great way to involve your employees and customers, or church members. Giving trees begin in November.

If you would like more ideas or assistance to include FC in your workplace giving, please contact Brittney Shirley at [brittneys@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:brittneys@florencecrittenton.org) or 406.442.6950 x205.



### PLANNED GIVING: CHANGING THE FUTURE

One of the easiest ways to ensure families can receive the care they need for generations, is to make a gift to Florence Crittenton in your will. Making a designation in your will can be very simple and can complement your plans to care for your heirs. These gifts can be directed however you wish, from endowment gifts, to everyday operational funds.

Please visit [www.florencecrittenton.org](http://www.florencecrittenton.org) for sample language, tax ID's and to learn about other planned gift opportunities, such as deferred gifts, that can benefit you and your family now, and support life-changing programs for young families in the future.

If you would like to discuss your options with us, feel free to call or stop by our Development Office to visit with our staff. Contact Deniese Dempsey at 442.6950 x204, or at [deniesed@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:deniesed@florencecrittenton.org).

**Note: To qualify for the Montana Endowment Tax Credit, gifts must be made to the FCHS Foundation.**





# OUR DONORS

*All financial gift made in FY2019 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)*

*We sincerely apologize if we missed you in this recognition and do hope you will let us know. Due to limited space, we must limit gifts to \$100 cumulative and above for the year.*

## CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

### **\$25,000 and above**

Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation  
OP & WE Edwards Foundation  
Oro Y Plata Foundation  
Gilhousen Family Foundation  
Sunderland Foundation

### **\$10,000- \$24,999**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana  
Gianforte Family Charitable Trust  
Williams-Malone Foundation

### **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Anderson Zurmuehlen Tech Services  
Big Sky Software Solutions Inc.  
First Interstate Bank  
Headwaters Foundation  
Montana Radio Company

### **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Ascension Electric Corp.  
Allegra Marketing / Print / Mail  
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Employee Benefit Resources

Ascension Physical Therapy  
Barry Damschen Consulting, LLC  
Cobb Foundation  
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PayneWest Insurance  
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Shodair Hospital  
SoFi  
Tri County Disposal  
Valley Bank of Helena  
Williams Companies Foundation, Inc  
Wipfli LLP

### **\$500 - \$999**

Ash Grove Cement Company  
Big Sky Acoustics LLC  
Bjerke Architects PLLC  
Dawn Til Dusk Enterprises  
Eagle Beverage  
Frontier West LLC  
Gusto Distributing  
Marks Lumber  
Montana City Plumbing & Heating  
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Mountain West Office Solutions  
Nicholson Inc.  
Park View Dental  
Slate Architecture  
Stockman Bank  
Target  
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### **\$100 - \$499**

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Sound Health Imaging  
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Ullman Lumber Co.

## CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES

### **\$1,000 and above**

Cathedral of St Helena Parish  
Life Covenant Church  
Our Lady of the Valley Parish  
St Peter's Cathedral  
Zonta Club of Glendive

### **\$500 - \$999**

Presbyterian Women's Association  
Sorooptimist International of Glasgow  
St Luke's Lutheran Church

### **\$100 - \$499**

American Legion Auxiliary  
American Legion Lewis & Clark Post 2  
Anna Smalley Chapter 112  
Bethel Methodist Women  
Covenant United Methodist Church

Doric Masonic Lodge #53 Big Timber  
First Presbyterian Church - Helena  
Fortress of Joy Church  
Friendship Lodge #37 AF & AM  
Glacier Park Woman's Club  
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Grace United Methodist Church  
Great Falls York Rite Bodies  
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OES Riverview Chapter # 80  
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Sorooptimist International of Missoula  
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St Margaret Parish - CCW  
St Paul's United Methodist Women  
The Exchange Club of Helena  
Trailhead Christian Fellowship  
United Methodist Women-Boulder  
VFW Post 10010  
WELCA Galata  
WELCA Plentywood Lutheran Parish  
White Sulphur Springs Lions Club



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## FLORENCE CRITTENTON'S LEGACY SOCIETY

*Legacy Society  
donors have made  
a commitment to  
Florence Crittenton's  
ability to care for future  
generations by making a  
gift to our endowment.  
THANK YOU!*

Dick & Margaret  
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*For more information  
on making a Legacy gift  
contact the Development  
office at 442.6950 x204.*

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## Support Our Girls A Smashing Success!



The 9th annual Support Our Girls was a huge success! Sponsored by Crafted Aesthetics & Wellness, this hilarious evening included our ever so entertaining emcee Shane Larson, creatively decorated bras with endless extras, a silent auction of gently used designer handbags, and a raffle that included very generous items from Crafted Aesthetics and Diamond Dream Wholesale & Supply.

Thank you to Shane Larson, Crafted Aesthetics and Wellness, talented bratists and as always, our spectacular volunteers!

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