

New executive director announced for The Family Center

Local resident to start at non-profit in late May

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Wisconsin Rapids Family Center Board of Directors has named its new executive director.

Tricia Fancher of Wisconsin Rapids will start her new role on May 22.

"I am honored to have been selected as the next Executive Director of The Family Center," Fancher said. "I look forward to collaborating with the talented team established and ensuring the mission of The Family Center continues and grows."

Founded in 1983, The Family Center provides services, shelter and support to victims of domestic and sexual abuse. Since its beginnings in the former convent at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, its growth led to the building of its current facility in 2004. There currently is a staff of more than 20 people.

The search for a new director began this spring when current director, Sue Sippel, announced her retirement after almost eight years with the local non-profit agency for victims of domestic and sexual violence. While Sippel's last day at the agency has not yet been set, she will serve in a consultative role during the next three months.

"Sue will be a great asset to Tricia and the Board (of Directors) as this transition progresses," said RaeAnn Thomas, president of The Family Center Board of Directors. Thomas served as Search Team Chair, working with Leading Transitions, a search firm out of Milwaukee.

Fancher has more than 10 years' experience, including eight years as the Program Coordinator at The Hannah Center, working with high-risk families and providing support towards independence. Fancher has training in crisis intervention, trauma-informed care, management of shelter services, and many years of experience leading an organization towards growth and program development.

"Tricia has shown strength in creating services appropriate to the particular population she is serving, and we expect that to translate into great programming at The Family Center, as well," Thomas said.

Thomas cited Sippel's work within the community and said the Board is excited to see that work continue with Fancher.

"Sue has created a great deal of community support and engagement, and, we as a Board are excited to see that community support continue, as we welcome our new executive director to this most important work," Thomas said.

Fancher shares that focus for the future.

“My experience and passion walking alongside, and empowering others aligns perfectly with the mission of The Family Center,” Fancher said. “I am excited to work within the community I have grown up in and lead prevention efforts by addressing the root causes and empowering those of all ages to have safe and healthy relationships.”