

MORE together



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

KINDRED FAMILY  FOCUS



DR. MICHELLE K. MURRAY

Nexus
President & CEO



GEORGE HENDRICKSON

Kindred Family Focus
Executive Director

ON A MISSION TOGETHER

Over the past year, Kindred Family Focus has worked to meet the ever-changing needs of the youth and families we serve. Thanks to the great support of our community partners and our generous donors, we were able to make a bigger impact on the State of Minnesota and in individual lives.

As the number of licensed foster homes continues to dwindle across the country, the number of children needing safe homes is only increasing. The issue is two-fold. Many foster parents are retiring after years of dedicated service or stepping out of foster care because of the intense needs of children today. Due to family issues and crises like the opioid epidemic, more children are needing immediate placement where they can stabilize and work through their past trauma in a safe and supportive home. This combination is creating a devastating gap in care.

Kindred Family Focus is constantly seeking innovative ways to recruit, license, and retain foster families and help biological families grow stronger through interventions before, during, and after their child enters foster care.

With your continued support, we can shrink the gap in Minnesota's foster care system and help more youth and families find hope and healing. Together, we can make a greater impact for our communities.

Thank you for believing in our mission and making 2018 a great year for our children and foster families.

Dr. Michelle K. Murray
Nexus President & CEO

George Hendrickson
Kindred Family Focus Executive Director

TOGETHER we built hope

Join our Mission!

- Be a Foster Parent
- Volunteer
- Donate
- Host a Fundraiser
- Attend an Event
- Work with Us
- Be an Advocate

KINDRED FAMILY FOCUS SERVICES

Foster Care

Specially trained foster parents provide various forms of services to meet the many depths of need: emergency foster care, short-term foster care, whole family foster care, therapeutic foster care, and treatment foster care.

Adoption

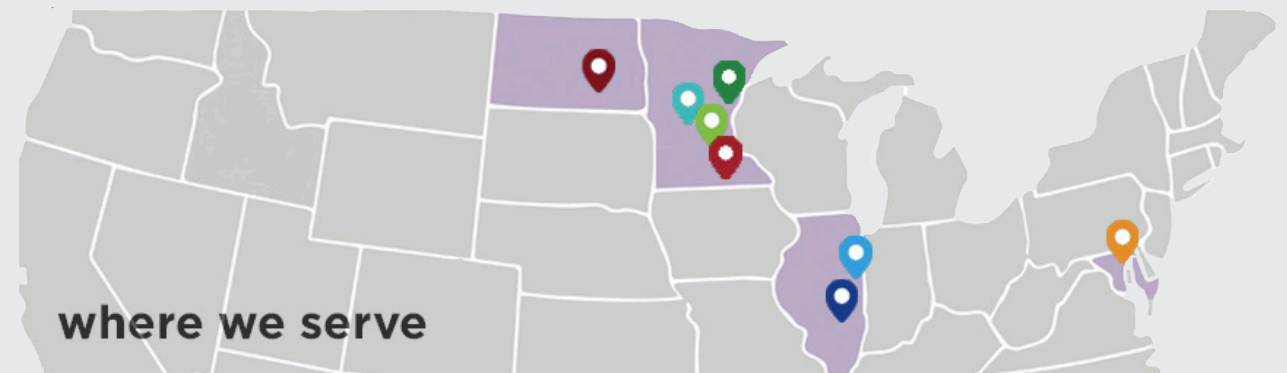
Kindred contracts with the State of Minnesota to offer adoption services at no cost to families, counties and tribes. In partnership with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Kindred also offers Wendy's Wonderful Kids, where recruiters seek families for Minnesota Waiting Children while providing placement support and supervision.

Community Mental Health

Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) offers home-based counseling in collaboration with Guadalupe Alternative Programs (GAP) to restore a child's functioning when struggling with trauma or a mental health condition.

A NETWORK OF CARE

Kindred Family Focus is an affiliate of Nexus, a national nonprofit organization, serving children, youth, and families through accredited education programs, community-based mental health programs, foster care/adoption services, and residential treatment programs.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Many of the youth in foster care experience difficult backgrounds lacking the same opportunities that most of their peers experienced. Thanks to many generous donors, we were able to offer youth the chance to go to summer camp, professional sporting events, and get special items they can call their own.

Through grant dollars from the Pohlad Foundation, several youth in Kindred Family Focus care had the chance to attend summer camp where they gained social skills, independence, and had the opportunity to explore new adventures and build friendships.



Youth also went to Camp Amnicon, an outdoor camp on Lake Superior that offers guided adventures. The boys' group paddled in the Sylvania Wilderness in Michigan's Upper Peninsula while the girls traveled down the scenic Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers.

Camp Amnicon's mission supports our youth by "promoting growth, confidence, and change through wilderness challenge and adventure-based camping." Our campers expressed that the week was full of obstacles but they came away realizing that they are part of something bigger and are capable of so much more than they ever realized.

TOGETHER we did more

With the help of our staff, donors, and community partners, we took the leap to expand our current programs and offer more mental health services for youth and families.

WE PARTNERED TO MEET NEEDS...

...OF OUR COMMUNITY

In 2018, Kindred Family Focus partnered with Guadalupe Alternative Programs (GAP), a community-based education and social service agency, to expand our reach in the Twin Cities and allow more clients to receive the right level of care in a local setting.

GAP enabled Kindred Family Focus to provide mental health resources in schools and offer additional in-home and in-office therapeutic services to children and families.

...OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE

According to a recent study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a child enters foster care every two minutes, with more than 430,000 children nationwide in foster care on any given day.

To continually combat the growing gap between the number of available foster homes and the number of children needing care, Kindred Family Focus sought to hire additional recruiting and licensing staff. However, we couldn't simply hire these positions without funding.

Together, the Otto Bremer Trust, the Mardag

Foundation, and the Northland Foundation teamed up with Kindred Family Focus to increase the number of foster parents in Minnesota.

Through this partnership, two recruiter/licensor positions were created, one in the northeast and one in the central regions of Minnesota. These positions are dedicated to finding, qualifying, and licensing stable and loving homes.

...OF FOSTER AND BIOLOGICAL FAMILIES

To offer additional support to foster families and the youth entering and exiting their care, Kindred Family Focus piloted a new support service, called "comfort calls."

Kindred is a founding member of the MN Quality Parenting Initiative, a national organization whose focus is enhancing parenting in the child welfare system. "Comfort calls" are a new practice that help lessen the stress and confusion a child experiences when they enter a foster home. These calls, made the day a child is placed with a foster family, initiate dialogue between the foster family and the child's biological family to address concerns and create a stronger support system.

HONORING EXCELLENCE

Committed to Youth

Reggie Hannah, social worker in the Kindred Family Focus Metro office, was bestowed the Sister Helen Louise Roth Award for Commitment to Youth, recognizing an AspireMN member employee who provides exceptional service and support to youth and families. With over 16 years working in the youth-focused field, Reggie's dedication to each youth's success is immeasurable. He works tirelessly and is a strong advocate for those he serves. It is an honor to have him on our team.



Outstanding Care

Kathy Wyman, a Kindred Family Focus foster parent who has provided more than 50 years of care for children, was awarded the Minnesota Region 3 Outstanding Child Foster Care award from the Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA).



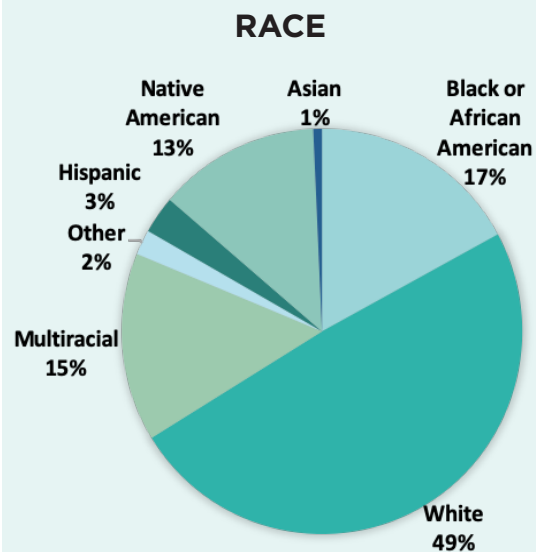
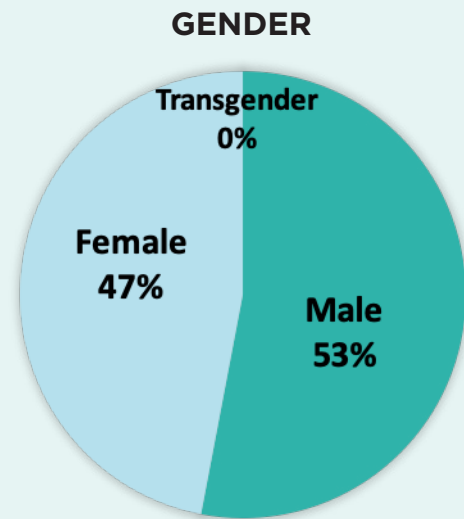
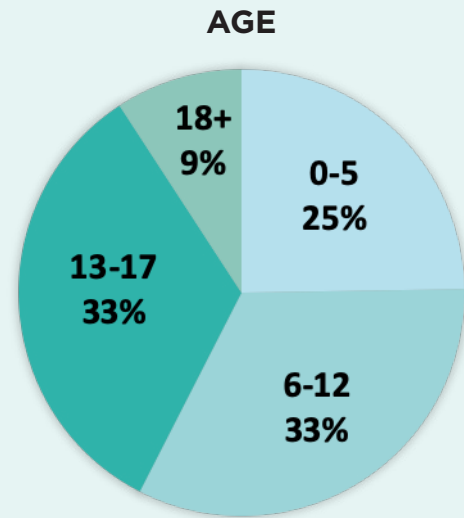
The Outstanding Child Foster Care award recognizes exceptional foster care provided to children by nominees who demonstrate an excellent ability to provide a stable and supportive environment which allows for a child's growth and development.

Exemplifying Excellence

Jeanette Lee, a social worker in Kindred Family Focus' northern region, was awarded the MSSA Region IV Outstanding Staff Achievement Award. This award recognizes individuals who routinely exemplify outstanding service to clients, their colleagues, and place of work. Having such dedicated employees is truly an honor!



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

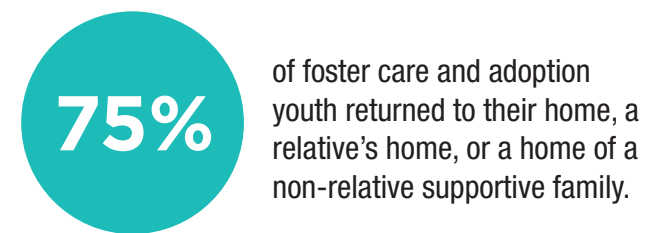
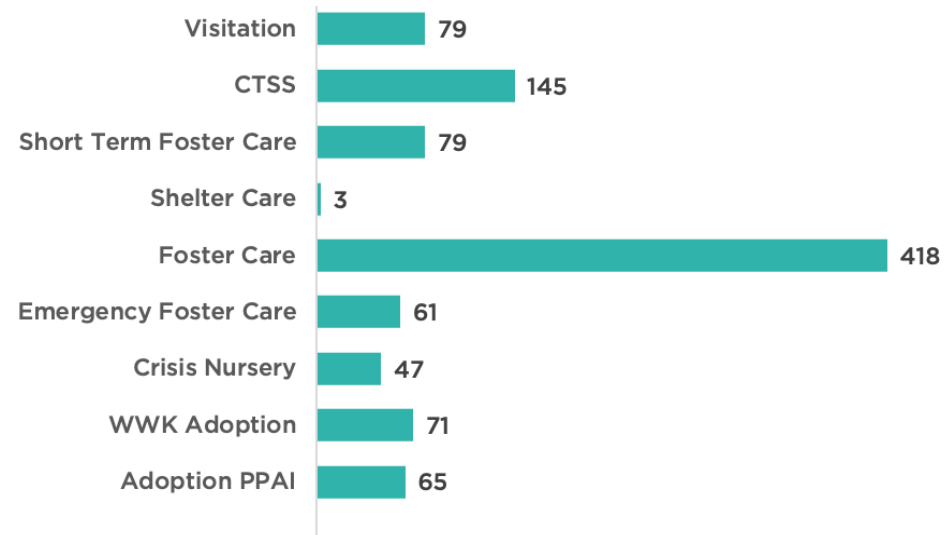


TOGETHER we made an impact

Kindred Family Focus served over 850 youth and families in 2018 through community-based mental health services, foster care, and adoption resources.

It is the ultimate goal for each child to attain permanency. Our number of adoptions nearly doubled in 2018 and we saw many children return to loving homes.

CLIENTS SERVED BY SERVICE



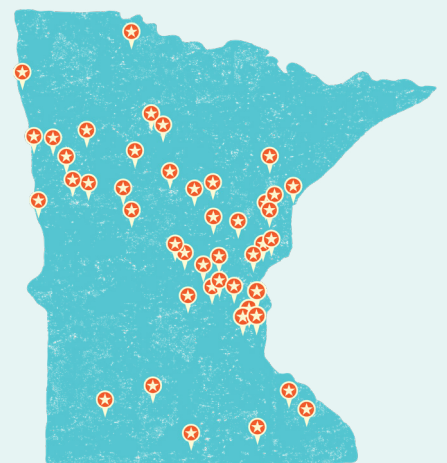
In 2018, 61% of youth entered Kindred Family Focus services having 4 or more traumatic experiences, such as abuse and neglect, witnessing violence, and family disruptions. The Annie E. Casey Foundation reported that most kids in care — 61% — enter the system due to neglect and are almost twice as likely as combat veterans to suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Kindred Family Focus helps youth and their families heal painful emotions and recover from the impact of disruption so that:

- families get along better;
- youth improve their performance in school;
- youth have healthy social relationships; and,
- youth no longer repeat the same harmful behaviors.

As more children are in need of care, our goal is to see the number of children returning home grow through the licensing and retention of foster families, increased adoptive families, and the stabilization of biological families.

SERVING YOUTH ACROSS MINNESOTA Foster Home Locations



At the close of 2018, Kindred Family Focus had 158 active foster families across the state of Minnesota.



KINDRED FAMILY FOCUS

Admin Office
103 Marty Drive, Suite 201
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-271-1670
www.nexus-yfs.org



Kindred Family Focus is an affiliate of Nexus, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that strives to stabilize families and strengthen mental health through providing community mental health services, foster care and adoption resources, and residential treatment.

NEXUS

Nexus in Illinois

INDIAN OAKS  ACADEMY

ONARGA  ACADEMY

Nexus in Maryland

WOODBOURNE  CENTER

Nexus in Minnesota

GERARD  ACADEMY

KINDRED FAMILY  FOCUS

MILLE LACS  ACADEMY

Nexus in North Dakota

PATH  NORTH DAKOTA



Nexus is a national nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, that serves children, youth, and families through Community Mental Health Services, Foster Care/Adoption, and Residential Treatment Programs. Nexus, Gerard Treatment Programs, LLC, Kindred Family Focus, and Woodbourne Center, Inc., and PATH North Dakota, Inc. are each separate legal entities, organized or treated as nonprofit organizations under their respective State's law, and qualified for state and federal tax exemption under Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status of the Internal Revenue Code. Mille Lacs Academy, Indian Oaks Academy, Onarga Academy, Nexus Glen Lake programs are not separate entities, but rather programs operated directly by Nexus with an underlying adherence to the Nexus Cornerstone Values and Guiding Principles.