**Starpoint Family Resource Center**

Starpoint’s Family Resource Center serves families across Fremont County. In 1990, a collective of forward thinking community partners established a system of the latest innovations in early childhood programming to support and strengthen families with very young children. Since then the Starpoint Family Resource Center has provided continuous 2Generation high-quality family-centered services through programs like Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Circle of Security, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention, and Colorado Community Response.

The 2020 program year was filled with opportunities and challenges amidst a pandemic and national health crisis. Early in 2019 our in-person program delivery was halted, however, our partnerships with Parents as Teachers National Center and Parent Possible in Colorado, provided monumental technical assistance us as we pivoted to virtual home visits. While this novel approach was no substitute to the dynamic of in-person visits, it kept us connected and engaged with our families. Virtual visits will likely remain a program option as time moves forward past the pandemic.

Our teams at the Family Center leaned heavily into the use of technology, growing professionally through the process. Emergency pass through funding from Tony Grampsas Youth Services made it possible to upgrade technology for our home visitation staff. Laptops and iPads became essential tools in working with families on a virtual platform. Each home visitor is now equipped with the necessary tools to meet the needs of Zoom and other meeting platforms.

Through collaborative networking, our partners at the Family Resource Center Association collaborated with state and federal programs to secure FEMA supplies of diapers, wipes, and formula. Starpoint’s Family Resource Center served as a three-county hub for distribution. A total of 1200 cans of formula, 1270 packages of wipes, and 590 cases of diapers estimated at over $150,000 were distributed to providers, families, and food pantries across Fremont, Custer, and Chaffee counties in April and May of 2020.

Through a collaborative effort to keep families fed we partnered again with the Family Resource Center Association, Hunger Free Colorado, and the Denver Foundation to provide access to food. Both funding streams were used to encourage attendance at our local Farmers Market by providing “Market Bucks” to families and staff so they could shop for fresh local produce.

As the 2020 calendar pages turned we looked for ways to offer some of our in-person events in a virtual way. The power of partnership shone through as we held our 3rd Annual STEAM Fair on YouTube with prerecorded learning sessions. You can view the sessions [here](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCPVlsBMioN4a71O0vaIGOVGPPkxAMykh). Home visitation staff and our partners from Fremont County Department of Public Health & Environment, The Royal Gorge Region Museum and History Center, and the Colorado State University of Pueblo Early Childhood Education Department provided materials, directions, and pre-recorded video segments for STEAM activities. Families were able to pick up STEAMpak kits with the materials needed to complete the activities. The STEAM videos launched on the Saturday morning we would have typically held the live event.