



SOUTHSIDE FAMILY  
NURTURING CENTER

# Annual Report 2019-2020



## from the Executive Director

Dear SSFNC Friends and Family,

It is my true privilege to stand within the walls of the Center to hear the laughter and active learning of young children, eager for and trusting in a new tomorrow. In this report, we tell *our story*; sharing child and family triumphs and challenges, and recognizing, with great thanks, our allies and partners! As a critical partner in our mission, thank you for your sustained support and your demonstrated commitment to changing health and education inequities.

Reflecting on 2019 and 2020, we ask ourselves, what will be the story that I tell, to whosoever might ask about this epic and tragic time?

Might you tell...

- Of our lived experience across generations of violence and trauma
- How we depended on one another and missed living in community
- How turning a blind eye on injustice and inequity broke us and our community

And perhaps you will also tell a new story...

- How we partnered and forged new relationships
- How you reconnected to Mother Earth and the blessings of water and land created for all of us
- How you counted your blessings including those mourned and lost
- How hope, love, and faith pulled us through
- A dream and vision of a more perfect union and equitable nation

Our story and our stories are our investment in our collective mission. May peace and strength, and the stories we tell, gather us together to ***Nurture children, Build on family strengths, and Find alternatives to violence.***



Julie Ellefson, Executive Director



## SERVICES

### Therapeutic early childhood education

*Children develop healthy social-emotional, physical, and cognitive skills—all related to Kindergarten readiness and successful educational and social outcomes.*

- Trauma-informed program model
- Emphasis on safety and relationship building
- Intensive therapeutic programming
- On-site play, music, occupational, and speech therapy and early autism intervention
- Multicultural environment celebrating diversity
- Dual-language learning
- Low teacher-child ratios (never more than 1:5)
- Highly qualified early childhood educators
- Evidence-based, social emotional development focused curriculum (HighScope & AMAZE)

### Family support and home visiting

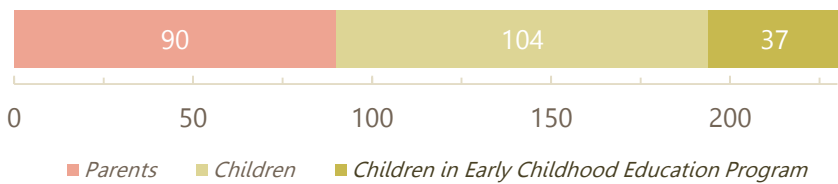
*Southside Family Nurturing Center pioneered dual-generation, holistic family services.*

- Bi-weekly home visiting (offered virtually during the pandemic)
- Family strengths-based model
- Self-directed goal planning
- Parenting skills development
- Parent engagement in the classroom
- Family events: shared meals and activities strengthen parent/child attachment
- Partnering with parents through support and advocacy
- Crisis intervention
- Community gardening

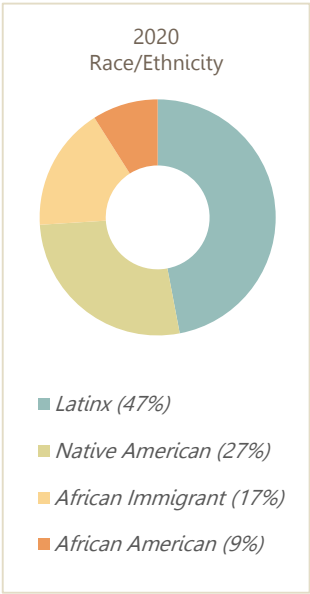
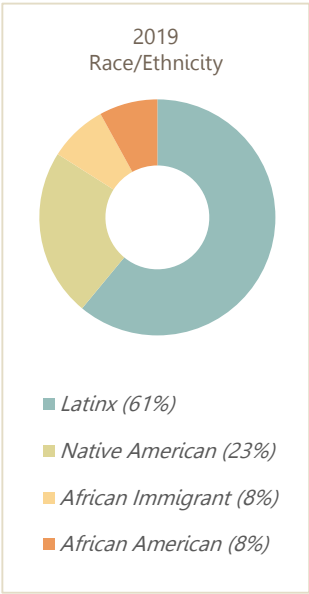
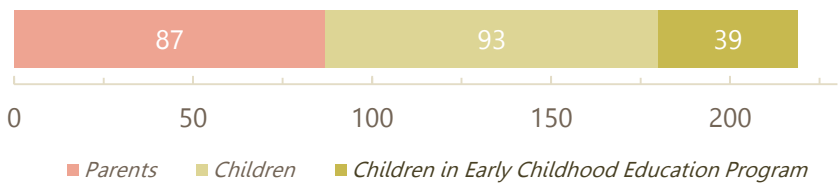


# About our families

In 2019, we served 231 family members.



In 2020, we served 219 family members.





Children Are Healthy.	2019	2020
Completed well-child checks	92%	92%
Up-to-date with immunizations	94%	86%
Brushed teeth regularly at SSFNC	100%	NA*
Consumed fresh and nutritious breakfast and lunch, Mon-Friday at ECE	100%	100%
Explored the world of food cultivation	100%	100%

*\* suspended in March 2020 due to COVID; brushes and toothpaste distributed for the whole family)*

Children Are ready for School.	2019	2020
Showed progress in all areas of development	100%	81%
Received one or more individual therapeutic services (play, speech, occupational, or music)	76%	58%
Maintained or improved their score on the ASQ-SE (social-emotional functioning)	90%	89%
Overall attended early childhood education program	84%	80%

Children live in safe, stable, and nurturing environments.	2019	2020
Parents demonstrate positive, responsive parenting techniques	81%	70%
Parents consistently promote children’s language development	93%	74%
Parents access community resources and referrals	92%	93%
Parents participate in regular home visiting or virtual/phone services (average 4 hours per month)	86%	70%*

*\* 2020 COVID and Community unrest contributed to somewhat lower home visiting participation than in previous years*



# highlights

## 2019

### RELEVANT

- One of the first private, nonprofit agencies in MN to implement holistic family interventions, SSFNC celebrated 45 years of service in the Philips Community.
- Thanks to an Arts Activity Support grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, SSFNC children, families, and staff learned from Latinx, African, and Native American artists in our Drumming and Dancing Across Cultures series.
- SSFNC received funding to expand home visiting services and implement the evidence based, culturally responsive Family Spirit Home Visiting Model.

### ACCESSIBLE

- Successful fundraiser afforded SSFNC the purchase of 2 buses, essential for getting children between home and our early childhood education program.

## 2020

### responsive

- Quickly switched our in-person model to virtual learning and home visiting. Supported connection and learning through materials delivery and virtual individual and therapy sessions.
- SSFNC delivered weekly groceries, paper, and cleaning supplies to 35 families due in part to a \$20,000 CARES Act Food Support grant from Hennepin County.
- Children enrolled in SSFNC early childhood education program received a computer tablet and technical assistance to ensure continued learning and developmental progress during COVID closures.
- SSFNC and Wayside Recovery Center partnered to deliver virtual education and age-appropriate activities to children residing with their mothers at Wayside.



## 2020 (Continued)

- In community with Barbara and Francis Bettleyoun, SSFNC stepped into a Healing Gardening project with families, nurturing therapeutic connections with each other and with Mother Earth. Garden visits allowed families to safely meet with home visitors during COVID and community unrest.



### Equity-focused

- SSFNC launched **We Rise: Breaking Cycles**, Building Equity awareness campaign to enhance people's understanding of the Phillips Community and invite new partnerships in communities with similar needs that may benefit from SSFNC's holistic, dual-generation model.
- SSFNC Teacher/Home Visitor Team authored a trauma-informed booklet for teachers and parents to use as a tool for talking about children's feelings about our community and the death of George Floyd.

## Breaking Cycles – Building Equity

In July of 2020, we launched **We Rise**, an awareness campaign elevating Southside's collective work, nurturing children, building on family strengths, and finding alternatives to violence. Sitting in the heart of South Minneapolis, **We Rise, Breaking Cycles – Building Equity** speaks to the lived experience and challenges of children and families most impacted by present and historical violence, injustice, and racial inequity.



# Cultivating Healthy Food Access

## Food Insecurity among SSFNC Families

From March 2020 to Dec 2020, SSFNC consistently delivered 3 bags of groceries to an average of 35 families/week for a total of 30 weekly deliveries.



% of Families Who Demonstrated Need and Accepted Food Support

Pre-Covid 36%

Post-March 2020  
*(COVID and Civil Unrest)* 80%

## Thank you, la escuela

I met with Juana for our weekly home visit. She said, “Tell everyone thank you for the food! Right now we are not working, laid off from the restaurant due to the pandemic. I’m so thankful to ‘la escuela’ (the little school) for helping us in this difficult time. I know that my children won’t have to suffer like I did when I was young.” Quiet and teary eyed, Juana recalled her childhood, walking in the rain looking for firewood for cooking. Juana’s mother passed away when Juana was only thirteen. It was then that Juana stepped into the role of caring for her two younger brothers. They only ate rice and occasionally milk. She continued, “I am grateful because it can be worse. Thank you.”

Families, like Juana’s, overcome immense obstacles and are incredibly resilient. We know that investing resources at SSFNC contributes to families’ sense of community and long-term family stability. Juana and other families are nurturing strong futures for their children despite the additional stress and trauma that they have experienced this past year.





Revenue & expenses

Revenue	2019	2020
United Way	\$105,000	\$122,000
Corporations & Foundations	\$419,695	\$613,835
Individuals & Events	\$146,763	\$129,363
Church/Civic Groups	\$11,369	\$37,600
Scholarships & Program Fees	\$178,401	\$206,467
Government Funding		\$37,000
Subcontract Income		\$9,350
Other	\$4,435	\$7,135
Total	\$865,663	\$1,162,750

Expenses	2019		2020	
Program	\$793,400	77%	\$843,300	80%
Management & General	\$124,525	12%	\$98,620	9%
Fundraising	\$118,593	11%	\$118,547	11%
Total	\$1,036,518		\$1,065,467	

When Parents Receive The Support They Need, They  
Nurture, Safe and Strong Futures for themselves and  
their Children.



### Assets & liabilities

Assets	2019	2020
Cash	\$301,373	\$603,721
Pledges & Receivables	\$166,425	\$157,559
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,380	\$9,118
Building & Equipment	\$1,189,178	\$1,134,971
Other	\$18,829	\$23,250
Total	\$1,685,185	\$1,928,619
Liabilities	2019	2020
Accounts Payable	\$21,038	\$11,480
PPP Loan		
Note Payable	\$276,554	\$420,724
Other	\$44,721	\$56,560
Total	\$342,313	\$448,764
Net Assets	2019	2020
Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,266,085	\$1,342,475
With Donor Restrictions	\$76,787	\$97,380
Total	\$1,342,872	\$1,439,855
	2019	2020
Total Net Assets & Liabilities	\$1,685,185	\$1,928,619

# Leadership

## 2019 Board of directors

Gary Wert, Chair	Andy Gannon, Board Member
Michelle Thompson, Vice Chair	Raleigh Fromstein, Board Member
Jonathan Horick, Treasurer	Fred Herron, Board Member
Joy Shealer Orson, Secretary	

## 2020 Board of directors

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Joy Shealer Orson, Secretary/Chair	Raleigh Fromstein, Board Member
Michelle Thompson, Vice Chair	Fred Herron, Board Member
Randy Nelson, Board Member/Secretary	Cheryl Mosisa, Board Member

## Key staff

Julie Ellefson, Executive Director	Diane Cullumber, Development
Jennifer Bridges, Program Director	Laura Beth Landy, Finance

## Gaining Self-Regulation and Self-Efficacy

Noah struggles with auditory sensitivity and is easily distracted and distressed by sounds. This really impacted his ability to participate at school, as he would often stop engaging when overstimulated or overwhelmed. In Occupational Therapy, we worked on noticing and naming sounds, talking about how it felt to hear them, but then returning to the activity we were engaged in. Now when a sound surprises him, Noah can tell us what he heard and resume his activity on his own. He has made a lot of progress in trying new things, expressing himself, and standing up for himself when he is uncomfortable in his environment. Instead of shutting down, Noah's able to self-regulate by using the strategies he's learned in therapy. We are so proud of him!



### Featured Funding Partner: The Constellation Fund

Southside is pleased to have been funded in 2020 by The Constellation Fund, focused on finding the stars and connecting the dots in the fight against poverty in the Twin Cities. With an evidence-driven approach to poverty alleviation, Constellation brings new insight to the local philanthropic landscape, using the best available information to make the best possible investments.



SSFNC participated in their rigorous benefit-cost analysis which resulted in being selected as a grantee partner and supported by Constellation's Beyond Dollars pro-bono capacity building resource. Southside is grateful to be part of the Constellation Fund's thoughtfully built portfolio of the most effective grantees across elements essential to stability and success for MN's 650,000 people living in poverty: Education, Employment, Health and Housing.

*"We are proud to support the work of the Southside Family Nurturing Center; SSFNC's staff engage deeply and authentically with children and their families to disrupt cycles of trauma and build bright futures. SSFNC's leadership pushed my own thinking about how we were applying Constellation's metrics and advocated to make our analysis of Southside's work more holistic."*

— Amal Karim, Impact Officer at the Constellation Fund

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# 2019 & 2020 Tributes and Memorials

## Tributes and Memorials

Anonymous, In honor of Harvey Winje and Susan Gust's retirement

Anonymous, In honor of the families at SSFNC

Dave and Beverly Blinde, In memory of Margaret Shepherd

Cynthia Butler, In honor of Dessa

Dan and Julie Caesar, In honor of Marty Haugen

Winston Cavert and Carol Witte, In honor of Harvey Winje and Susan Gust's retirement

Fred Dulles and Catherine Jordan, In honor of Harvey Winje and Susan Gust's retirement

David Ellefson, In memory of Ron Larson

Julie Ellefson, In memory of James Landy

Julie Ellefson, In memory of Annette Sova Peterson

Kent Fritz-Smead, In memory of Nancy Smead Putman

Richard and Raleigh Fromstein, In memory of John Landy

Sally Grans and Ronald Korsh, In honor of Harvey Winje and Susan Gust's retirement

Fred Gustafson and Mary Jane Sullivan, In memory of Chuck Merton-Sotto

Amy Hearne, In honor of Ruth Usem's birthday

Thomas and Maren Hood, In memory of Melissa Sorman

Hope Circle, In honor of Judith Mattison's book

Sharon Isaacson and Kim Thielen, In memory of Carlie Tronto

Roger and Marilyn Israel, In honor of Laura Beth Landy's birthday

Vicki Kunerth, In honor of Harvey Winje and Susan Gust's retirement

Al and Ruthanne Lapinsky, In memory of Gary Bisnow

Scott Leisinger, In honor of Jon Horick's leadership and service in the Minneapolis community

Lynne & Andrew Redleaf Foundation, In memory of James Landy

Judith Mattison, In memory of Linda Westling

Judith Mattison, In memory of Nancy Wiberg

Aine McCormack, In memory of Agnes Regan

Lisa Norling, In honor of Harvey Winje and Susan Gust's retirement

Greg and Karen Odash, In honor of Harvey Winje and Susan Gust's retirement

Barbara Olson and John Fredlund, In honor of Holly Winje

Barbara Olson and John Fredlund, In honor of Julie Ellefson

Allison Reese, In honor of Julie Ellefson

Carol Rue, In honor of Judie Mattison

Joel Schurke & Cheryl Peterson-Schurke, In honor of Harvey Winje and Susan Gust's retirement

Peggy Smith, In honor of Linda and Marty Haugen

Clare Sorman and David Gapen, In memory of Melissa Sorman

John Stoltenberg and Joseph Hamilton, In honor of Diane Stoltenberg & Fred Holzapfel

Mimi Thurlow, In honor of Harvey Winje and Susan Gust's retirement

Andrew Townsend, In honor of Harvey Winje and Susan Gust's retirement

Marc Weisenburger, In memory of Carolyn Weisenburger





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