FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dancing for Little Stars Raises $45,000 for Child Abuse Prevention

(Oshkosh, Wis.) – In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, the Parent Connection program of Family Services held its 7th annual Dancing for Little Stars event on Friday, April 11. A crowd of 420 guests gathered at the Oshkosh Convention Center for an evening of music, dancing and fun, raising proceeds of $44,800 to support Parent Connection’s child abuse prevention services in Winnebago County.

Guests enjoyed hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction and raffles. A brief program featured the work and mission of Parent Connection and honored two community members, Pastor John Hobbins and Dr. Michelle Wihlm, for their contributions to improving the lives of children and families in the Oshkosh area.

Nine groups and pairs of ‘local celebrities’ then took the stage for the “Dancing for Little Stars” competition, entertaining the crowd with performances ranging from country and tap to ballroom and music through the decades. In the end, Liz Rice Janzen and Ted Balser earned the title of “Biggest Fundraisers”, bringing in $4,414 through their participation in the event. Bella College of Cosmetology won for “Best Costume” and the team High School Reunion (dancers Anna Allen, Holly Foster and Erin Martin) won the award for “Best Dance”.

Volunteers serving on this year’s event planning committee were Jessica Benesh, Sue Berndt, Beth Caramanidis, Jessica Johnson, John Holland, Erin Martin, Sue Patchak, Scott Peck and Jennifer Ven Rooy. Major sponsors of the event were CastlePierce, Jay Manufacturing and Kimberly Clark Corporation.

Parent Connection is a parent education and early learning program that encourages, strengthens and supports families in Oshkosh and the Fox Cities. Services include voluntary
home visitation for first-time parents, family wellness workshops, dads programs, family fun events, and more. For more information, contact Wendy Schwalbe, Program Manager, at 920-233-6630 ext. 101 or visit www.familyservicesnew.org/parent-connection.

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FOR THE EDITOR:
About Family Services:
Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin is a non-profit, human services agency that protects, heals and cares for the children and families of Northeast Wisconsin. The agency offers more than 30 programs that support the people of our communities during challenges and transitions in their lives.

Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc. 
www.familyservicesnew.org