



Have you ever had the experience, within a short period of time, of feeling fully at home? Such is the feeling that I have had this week, my first week, as the CEO of Our Family Services. I am home!

Admittedly, I have much to learn – 63 years of rich history of serving the community – isn't absorbed in just one week. And the breadth of services offered to the community by - 80 staff, 14 board members, and 200 volunteers - gives me much to focus on. I haven't even begun to digest the dozens and dozens of community partnerships and collaborations that Our Family is a part of in our community and beyond.

For those who I have not yet had the pleasure to meet, here is a little bit about me. I was born and raised in a small rural farming community in northern Michigan as the youngest of five children and with parents who owned an independent grocery store, Morrison's IGA. After completing my undergrad, I was off to Tucson!

In addition to falling in love with the mountains and desert, I also fell in love and eventually married a native Arizonan. During my time in Tucson, in addition to completing a Master's at the University of Arizona, I had the opportunity to deepen my passion for social justice through my work experiences at Tucson Job Corp, Catholic Social Services, Tucson Rape Crisis Center, and the Southern Arizona Mental Health Center. I also had the life changing experience of working with some amazing folks on the Navajo Nation and in northern Arizona.

In what I refer to as a weak moment, we left the desert behind and made a return to Michigan, new baby in tow. Being near my family and raising our son in their presence was wonderful. Professionally in Michigan, I continued to work on social justice issues, primarily violence against women and children – from school counselor, to director of a juvenile detention facility, to administrator of a suburban domestic and sexual violence program. The realities of social injustice continued to fuel my fire and kept me engaged in working to make the world a safer and more equitable place.

After achieving the goal of completing a large capital campaign and construction of a new facility, the time felt right to finally make a long term dream of returning to Tucson a reality. Our decision to do so couldn't have been timelier, as the CEO position at Our Family Services had opened up. Long story short – here I am!

As I make the transition into my new role, I look forward to meeting the supporters of Our Family. I'd love to hear your story, feel free to send me an email at [CEO@ourfamilyservices.org](mailto:CEO@ourfamilyservices.org).