



# Southside Family Nurturing Center Annual Report 2009



**Our Mission Statement:**  
*Together with families and community, we nurture children, build on family strengths, and find alternatives to violence.*

## Message from the Executive Director

2009 presented many financial obstacles for Southside Family Nurturing Center. We, along with all Family Focus programs, received a 10% reduction in funding from Hennepin County amounting to nearly \$80,000 of our operating budget. We felt the effects of the recession in the losses of a few additional funders as well. Despite those challenges we ended the year with a slight surplus due to the generous support of our friends and patrons, a diverse and persistent fundraising plan, and modifications to our staffing patterns.

We once again achieved NAEYC accreditation and we were selected by the Children's Defense fund as the "Star of the State" in their early childhood focus area. We were also granted a four star rating (the highest possible) from Parent Aware. While we are immensely proud of those achievements it has always been Southside's practice to continue to strive and move forward in programming practices, assessment and all agency policies. We have been in the process of reevaluating our classroom assessment tools and will be implementing the use of new curriculum and assessment tools in 2010. We have completed a draft of our new personnel policies and are updating our personnel filing system as well. In 2009 we served 223 individuals from 72 families in our Center Based and Home Based Services.

These milestones do not shed light on the most important successes at Southside, the small everyday achievements that we see reflected in a child acquiring a new skill or making a friend or finding his or her way to trust and self confidence, nor do they represent the courage and tenacity of each of the parents we serve and their continuing willingness to navigate their way out of despair turmoil and poverty as we walk with them towards a better future.

*Barb Olson*, Executive Director



## Thank you to our Board of Directors for their great leadership in 2009!

Kristen Powell, *Newspaper Design Consultant and freelance designer*

David Gapen (Secretary), *Walling, Berg & Debele, P.A.*

Scott Moore (Treasurer), *Medtronic CDRM*

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*Quiet Breeze Music*

Terri Seppala (Vice Chair), *TS Consulting*

Michele Heimes, *Children's Defense Fund*

Laura Cato, *Jeremiah Program*

David Draus, *Facilities Manager; Augsburg College*

Annette Jacox, *SSFNC Staff Representative*

*\*New roles were assumed at the Annual Meeting in June 2008*

## Highlights of 2009

- ◇ Successfully renewed accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
- ◇ Named Star of the State for Early Care and Education in the 2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book that was published by Children's Defense Fund-MN.
- ◇ Received a Four Star Rating (the highest possible rating) from Parent Aware.
- ◇ In conjunction with Acet, Inc., we developed a preliminary research plan to perform a longitudinal study that would document the long-term success of our programs with children. We are currently seeking funding for this project.
- ◇ Began the transformation of our backyard play space. In the summer of 2009, assisted by a volunteer boy scout troop, we dismantled the aging play structure that had been in our backyard for over 10 years. With the help of a local Landscape Architect and SSFNC staff members, we created a design for a natural playscape that will be built in our backyard and will provide a more organic outdoor play experience. We are currently seeking funding for this project.
- ◇ Despite the difficult economic landscape, we were able to complete 2009 with a slight revenue surplus, thanks to the generous support of friends and patrons.



## Looking Ahead: Goals for 2010-2011

- ◇ Continue to diversify funding sources in order to adapt to a changing economic landscape and Hennepin County budget cuts, including the creation of an Individual Gifts and Foundation committee.
- ◇ Complete updating of Personnel Guidelines and files.
- ◇ Implement High/Scope Curriculum and Child Observation Record assessment tool in our toddler and preschool classrooms.
- ◇ Continue to seek funding for and move forward with the creation of the natural playscape in our backyard area.
- ◇ Secure funding and begin implementation of a longitudinal study to document the long-term success of our programs among children we serve.



## A Children's Program Success Story...

Dave and Lianne and their baby boy Mikey began in Home Based Services in 2006. Mikey was born addicted to narcotics and was going through serious withdrawals, which was extremely challenging for the entire family. Additionally, Lianne and Dave were both extremely anxious parents and individuals, both recovering from their own addictions. Lianne and Dave were active participants in our program, meeting with their Family Worker for home visits, and attending Family Night events. Unfortunately, Lianne and Dave experienced child protection investigations and an open case while in our program the first year. Despite this challenge, they worked hard at their case plan and staying sober while working on improving their parenting abilities, and they were able to close their case.

We worked on increasing their self esteem and understanding of how their past affected their choices and how their experiences impact their parenting skills. Developing their positive self worth and teaching them to learn from and let go of their past helped them see they had a future to look forward to and know they were in charge of shaping their child's life.

Mikey joined the toddler class at Southside when he was twenty months old. Mikey had a very difficult time separating from his father and had trouble bonding with his mother and his female teachers, becoming afraid and crying uncontrollably when a female teacher attempted to comfort him. With the help of his teachers, Mikey was able to overcome his separation anxiety and develop his verbal, social-emotional, and cognitive skills. The greatest success for Mikey was interacting with all of his teachers and mother with out becoming upset. He was able to greet his teachers and other Southside staff by name and develop friendships with his fellow classmates.

Mikey loved spending time with both parents. He enjoyed watching learning television shows, being praised and playing with his parents. His father helped to facilitate his exploration of the world by taking him on trips to the playground, library, and other places in the community. Dad understood that the world was Mikey's learning environment and gave Mikey numerous daily experiences which helped Mikey and the family to forge positive relationships with other families in the neighborhood. When they were discharged, though sad, both parents had developed the skills necessary to move forward in parenting Mikey and living their own lives.

## Program Outcomes and Client Demographics

In 2009, we served 72 families comprised of 118 children and 105 parents. Thirty-eight fathers or male caregivers participated in Fathering for Success. Forty-four percent of our families were headed by a single mother.

### Race/Ethnicity

- ◇ 24% Latino
- ◇ 29% African American
- ◇ 27% Native American
- ◇ 10% Multi-racial
- ◇ 7% Caucasian
- ◇ 2% African
- ◇ 1% Asian

### Economics

- ◇ 96% of families were living in poverty
- ◇ 57% of families received Public Assistance
- ◇ 22% of families were employed
- ◇ 21% of families were employed *and* received Public Assistance

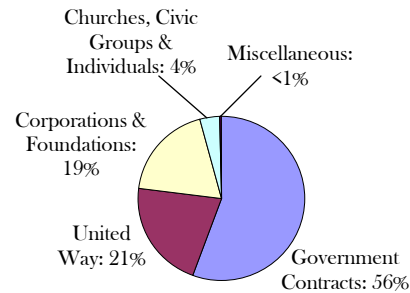
### Outcomes:

- ◇ 59% of parents demonstrated positive parenting techniques that convey knowledge and understanding of early childhood developmental milestones.
- ◇ 59% of parents demonstrated positive parenting techniques that enhance school readiness prior to entering kindergarten.
- ◇ 62% of parents demonstrated positive, effective parent/child communication techniques with their child.
- ◇ 59% of parents demonstrated increased confidence and self-control when responding to their child's needs.
- ◇ 87% of parents were provided with information on community resources that address identified family needs. 66% of these parents followed up on one or more of these referrals.
- ◇ 100% of families were provided with home visiting services to address acknowledged needs.
- ◇ 76% of children improved their ability to follow routines and schedules with adult guidance.
- ◇ 81% of children improved their skills in at least two areas of cognitive, language, motor, or self-help domains.
- ◇ 15% of children improved their attendance.

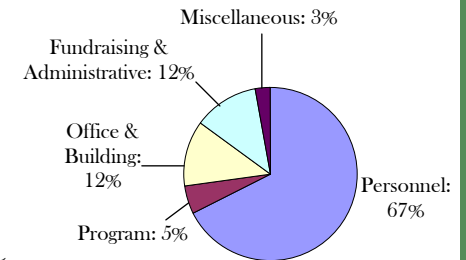


## 2009 Financial Report

### Operating Revenue Sources



### Operating Expenses



### Operating Revenue Sources

Government Contracts	\$820,323
United Way	\$315,424
Corporations & Foundations	\$277,806
Churches, Civic Groups, & Individuals	\$59,527
Miscellaneous	\$4,027
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,477,107</b>

### Operating Expenses

Personnel	\$909,984
Program	\$69,987
Office & Building	\$167,510
Fundraising & Administrative	\$163,811
Miscellaneous	\$37,739
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,349,031</b>

**Volunteer Service:** In 2009, SSFNC benefitted from over 950 volunteer hours provided by 61 volunteers, over half of which comprised of board service. Volunteers worked in our classrooms, served families on Family Night, at the Holiday Store and during special events. We also had volunteers assist with many projects throughout our building! Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers!

### *In our Fathering For Success Program:*

- ◇ 63% of fathers demonstrated positive parenting techniques that fostered positive parent/child interaction.
- ◇ 58% of fathers demonstrated positive parenting techniques that fostered early childhood development and school readiness.
- ◇ 73% of children demonstrated age appropriate social/emotional development.
- ◇ 71% of children demonstrated age appropriate language and literacy development.



## Thank You for Your Support in 2009!

Michael Aafedt  
Tim & Muffi Abrahamson  
Jean Ahrens & Muriel Anderson  
Bruce & Iris Alexander  
Kindra Allen  
Ameriprise Employee Giving  
Barbara Andersen  
Brian Anderson  
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Aleen Foster  
John & Barbara Fox  
Patricia Franco  
Linda Frankenstein  
Dee Gause  
Cary & Janet George  
Mark & Kelly Giura  
Robert & Kathleen Gorman  
Anna Grannes  
Greater Twin Cities United Way  
Kelly Grosklags  
David & Janet Gulden  
Vava Guthrie  
Gerald & Terry Hallfin  
Jim & Patricia Halverson  
Mary Hammill  
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Dave & Judy Hanson  
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Marty & Linda Haugen  
Miles & Jill Haugen  
Erin Hedges & Brian Dillman  
Brian & Penelope Hegseth  
David Heikkinen  
Scott & Michele Heimes  
Barbara Held  
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Adele Hersey  
Sandra Hewitt  
Erin Huegel  
Thomas Hunziker & Mary Egan  
Keith Holtan  
Andrea Jachman  
Jostens Foundation

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Judy & Ken Kipka  
Brady Kittel  
Katherine Kloehn  
Jimmy & Phyllis Koehler  
Kopp Family Foundation  
Cindy Kornblum  
Kristin Kunzman  
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church  
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Kari Larson  
Kimberly Larson  
Carolyn Lieberman  
Marilyn Linquist  
M. Maria Lopez  
Pam & Peter Lundholm  
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Aine McCormack  
Eileen McCormack  
Regan McCormack  
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Macy's Foundation  
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Steve & Kathy Miller  
Steve & Sophie Miller

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Darrell Palmer  
Park Nicollet Foundation  
Cay Patterson  
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The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation  
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Dow & Becky Powell  
Kristen & Cory Powell  
Paul & Abigail Pribbenow  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Lynn Pulito  
David & Diane Purdy  
Michael & Terry Reasoner  
Resources for Child Caring  
Maxine Richmond  
Sandra Richmond  
Scott & Terry Rivard  
Riverway Foundation  
Mary Roby  
Steve Roecklein  
JoAnne & Tom Rohricht  
Roundy's Foundation  
Trisha Rutter

St. Anthony of Padua  
St. Olaf Catholic Church  
Dr. Shahram Salimy & Zohreh  
Sauer Children's Renew Foundation  
Martha & Gene Schermer  
Mellisa Schiavone  
Floyd & Shirley Schneider  
Melanie Schneider  
Carolyn Schurr  
Margaret Scott  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Milena Sivertson  
Smiley's Clinic  
Peggy Smith  
Ed & Ann Sovik  
Sandy Spieler  
Brad & Michelle Spitzack  
Reverend Stanley & Barbara Gregory  
James Stengel & Sandy Heidemann  
Erik & Deb Strand  
Craig & Kathleen Strom  
Catherine Sturtevant  
Sugarman Family Foundation  
Eileen Supple & Family  
The TJX Foundation  
Target Foundation  
Tauck World of Giving  
Jim & Diane Theusch  
Thomson Reuters  
Louis Tinucci, Jr.  
Anna Tracy  
Risa Tritabaugh  
Ronald Trosvig  
Angie & Lane Urtel  
Albert van der Schans  
Victoria Dance Productions  
Alfred Vecoli  
Christine Vecoli  
John Vecoli

Joyce & Dennis Walsh  
Kevin W. Walsh Fund of The Minneapolis  
Foundation  
Gerry & Jean Wassenaar  
Jean Wassenaar Memorial Fund  
Wayzata Community Church  
James & Lori Wellman  
Jeff & Mary Werbalowsky  
Jenny Werbell  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Marie Paulson Wold Charitable Trust  
Ashleigh Yoerks  
Won & Kathy Yoon  
Jeanne Ziter & David Bourassa

*\* Please forgive us if we've left your name out!*