

Southside Family Nurturing Center

Annual Report 2007

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

Every day, parents in the Phillips and surrounding communities face the effects of severe poverty; they struggle to find adequate food, shelter, and clothing for their children and themselves. The energy and resolve that it must take to face each morning with the knowledge that you simply do not have the resources to make it through the day certainly drains the spirit. The families Southside serves face the additional challenges of family violence, chemical dependency, language and cultural barriers, family disruption and homelessness.

At Southside Family Nurturing Center, we are dedicated to understanding and easing that struggle. We guide our expertise with compassion. We work to lessen the impact of poverty for the children in the classroom, and the parents whose homes we visit. We offer cognitive stimulations, creative play experiences, classroom environments that reflect the cultures and experiences of our children, nourishing meals, qualified teachers, and a staff that is willing to confront the truths of our families' lives and stand beside them as they strengthen their skills, find their voices, and teach us the miracle and magnitude of hope.

This past summer we celebrated the restoration of our historic building, I am so proud of this achievement and the new beautiful program and office space we created. We have already begun dreaming new dreams for Southside. We are looking boldly to the future—developing a new Strategic Plan, looking to deepen our services, and adapting to the new economic environment with a commitment to expand our funding base. Our work is illuminated by determination, respect and a steadfast faith in transformation and healing.

Barb Olson

Thank you to our Board of Directors for their great leadership in 2007!

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Highlights of 2007

- ◇ We received funding from the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation to establish a Children's Program Director position. This person holding this position is responsible for oversight of all aspects of children's programming; including supervising the lead teachers and all children's program support staff, curriculum development, management of our licensing and accreditation processes and creation and realization of any new children's programming.
- ◇ With support from a City of Minneapolis Community Development Block Grant, we initiated a pilot program that provides clinical mental health therapy to children enrolled in our programs. This program provides on-site and in-home therapy for children who are dealing with exceptional trauma or developmental delays. These children are identified in the classroom as needing additional attention and are referred to the clinical practitioner by their teachers. We are currently providing 13% of children enrolled in our programs with this additional service.
- ◇ We transitioned out of our Family Options program and into a new county program entitled Healthy Families. First-time mothers are identified in the hospital as being at-risk and are referred to us for long-term home visiting and support. Families will receive services through this program for three years.
- ◇ As part of our goal to improve technology and communication systems, we were able to upgrade our telephone system with the generous support of The Graco Foundation.
- ◇ We have established and maintained a database system that serves to track demographics and outcomes of clients, as well as fundraising.
- ◇ Upon completion of our one-year planning process, we have transitioned into a three-year implementation grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation to participate in the Family Sustainability Collaborative with the University of Minnesota's Children, Youth and Families Consortium, Sabathani Community Center, and Sustainable Resources Center. This project will work with our families to educate them and provide resources for healthy home evaluations as well as any necessary home improvements (such as lead abatement or winterizing).
- ◇ Completed fundraising for our Capital Campaign, raising over \$1.8 million.

Looking Ahead: Goals for 2008-2009

- ◇ Provide long-awaited cost of living salary increases for all staff, scheduled for September 2008, and continue to address this issue on an annual basis.
- ◇ Complete our strategic planning process, charting our course for the next five years, and begin implementing the results of this plan.
- ◇ Work with staff and board members, as well as an external consultant to revise and update our human resources practices and personnel guidelines.
- ◇ Develop a plan, and seek funding for a K-3 afterschool program to provide academic and recreational activities for children in our community.

A Children's Program Success Story,,,

This is a story about a family that had been enrolled in SSFNC's program several years ago and after about a year of struggling with their relationship, involvement with gang activities, and searching for employment, left Minnesota, looking for a fresh start. In late 2006, they returned to Minneapolis and came to Southside seeking support and preschool for their youngest child, Alyssa*. For the first few months, Alyssa was extremely quiet in the classroom and both Mom and Dad expressed concern over her language skills. Alyssa would not respond to direction, especially during transitions, and did not interact with the other children.

Mom and Dad continued to struggle with their own problems, and this was clearly affecting Alyssa's development. Her attendance was inconsistent and Mom and Dad were not very involved in parent programming. Alyssa began speech therapy sessions and her teachers continued to work with Mom and Dad to address neurological concerns. The Family Worker has been successful in developing a stronger relationship with Mom and Dad and has been having more regular home visits.

There are still many issues to address in this family. Dad is still unemployed and struggling with depression. Mom, though working full time, reports feeling frustrated and overwhelmed. She is becoming more actively involved in parent programming, and Dad has begun to attend a few special events. Alyssa has shown significant improvement in the classroom and is participating more consistently in activities and playing with her classmates. This family still has many needs, but we feel that the progress they have made will provide a strong foundation for Alyssa as she moves to kindergarten and beyond.

**Names have been changed to protect the family's privacy.*

Program Outcomes and Client Demographics

In 2007, we served 87 families comprised of 159 children and 122 parents. Forty of the fathers or male caregivers participated in our Father's Program. Fifty-two percent of our families were headed by a single parent.

Race/Ethnicity

- ◇ 30% Native American
- ◇ 28% Multi-racial
- ◇ 21% Latino
- ◇ 14% African American
- ◇ 6% Caucasian
- ◇ 1% African

Economics

- ◇ 100% of families were living in poverty
- ◇ 55% of families received Public Assistance
- ◇ 23% of families were employed
- ◇ 7% of families were employed *and* received Public Assistance

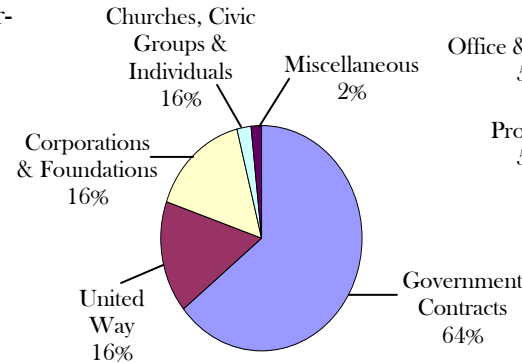
Outcomes:

- ◇ 87% of children improved in their ability to follow routines and schedules with adult guidance.
- ◇ 87% of children improved their skills in at least two areas of cognitive, language, motor, or self-help domains.
- ◇ 95% of children improved or maintained their attendance at an adequate level.
- ◇ 75% of parents improved their ability to sustain their families.
- ◇ 75% of parents improved their ability to nurture their children.
- ◇ 60% of parents improved their ability to provide safety and protection for their children.
- ◇ 60% of parents improved their ability to regulate and manage their children.
- ◇ 73% of fathers developed an emotional connection with their children.
- ◇ 64% of fathers developed their behavior management skills.
- ◇ 28% of non-active fathers responded to outreach efforts by Father's Program staff.

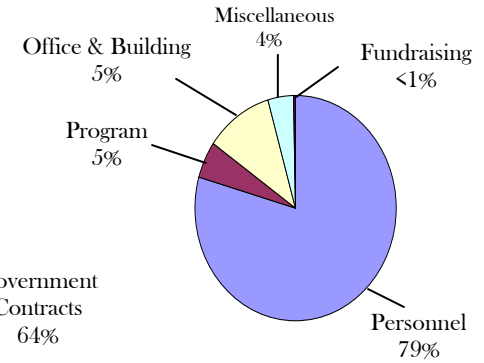


2007 Financial Report

Operating Revenue Sources



Operating Expenses



Operating Revenue Sources

Government Contracts	\$861,896
United Way	\$218,672
Corporations & Foundations	\$214,080
Churches, Civic Groups & Individuals	\$29,976
Miscellaneous	\$20,926
Total	\$1,345,550

Operating Expenses

Personnel	\$1,050,122
Program	\$71,649
Office & Building	\$143,508
Fundraising	\$5,196
Miscellaneous	\$53,218
Total	\$1,323,693

Capital Campaign Financial Report

Capital Revenue Sources

Foundations & Corporations	\$225,000
Government Grants	\$152,238
Individual Donors	\$7,425
Dividends	\$3,194
GMDCA Loan Forgiven	\$4,000
Other	\$600
Total	\$392,457

Capital Expenses

Construction	\$527,421
Furniture	\$5,939
Fundraising	\$7,575
Other	\$1,324
Total	\$542,259

* The difference of \$149,802 between expenses and revenue in 2007 represents both funds that were raised prior to 2007 and a loan that was taken out to cover the remainder of capital expenses.

Thank You for Your Support in 2007!

Heather Abbott
Tim & Muffi Abrahamson
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Bruce & Iris Alexander
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** Please forgive us if we've left your name
out!*