

Program Highlights

Foster Care

Jan Carda, Penny Spencer, and Peg Greene, Supervisors

The goal of the foster care program is to reunite families whenever possible—first by providing quality foster homes for the temporary placement of children removed from their biological families because of abuse or neglect, then by offering biological families the tools to remove or overcome the factors that have placed their children at risk.

Foster care constitutes the largest component of Child and Family Services' roster of services, both by program and by gross revenue. 400 children were served in 2002 through the foster care program, with 231 new placements. The average length of stay for children in foster care was under five months.

New to the Foster Care program in 2002 was the Experiential Adventure series, which provides youth with opportunities for sailing, skiing, horseback riding and other fun and educational activities. These activities help kids understand their own aptitudes and interests, and teach more intangible things like trust and teamwork.

Independent Living groups for teens were also added in 2002. Youth who are 16 or older and soon to leave foster care to live on their own need help to prepare for what they face in the world, particularly in practical skills like composing a resume, interviewing, balancing a checkbook, and learning about leases and paying their own bills. The first Independent Living group of 15 teens "graduated" in December.

These adjuncts to the foster care program exemplify Child and Family Services' commitment to providing high quality services, while also making the efficient use of referral source dollars a priority. We are grateful for the support of the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Councils from Antrim, Leelanau, Grand Traverse, and Kalkaska Counties for these programs.

Youth Incentive Program

Larry Krueger, Supervisor

The Youth Incentive Program (YIP) was established as an alternative to incarceration for youth who have entered the juvenile court system. The program provides many opportunities for growth through its four components: substance abuse monitoring, adventure-based experiential education, mentoring, and community service.

Youth in the program participate in physical activities such as biking, skiing, camping, and kayaking that also include educational initiatives. Community service involves work projects such as environmental cleanups and helping out at nonprofit organizations and local farms. Family members select mentors, who are asked to spend consistent, quality time with the youth on identified goals. Drug testing is also provided to youth in the program, as requested by the courts.

In 2002, YIP served 133 youth and offered them a chance to utilize resources in their communities that are fun and challenging, while at the same time provided the tools they need to make better decisions, increase self-esteem, and take responsibility for their actions.

Pregnancy Counseling

Carol Lemmen, Supervisor

Pregnancy Counseling is a service provided at no cost to women experiencing an untimely pregnancy and their family members. Pregnancy Counseling at Child and Family Services is nonsectarian, nonjudgmental, and provides access to professional staff 24 hours a day, every day.

The Pregnancy Counseling program served 45 clients and their family members and provided 465 hours of counseling, more than doubling 2002's goal of 175-220 hours. A public service announcement is currently airing on radio and television to help make women aware of the program.

Since Pregnancy Counseling is free to clients, its viability is dependent solely on donations and grant funding.

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)

Cynthia Stern, Supervisor

Pioneered in New Zealand and piloted by Child and Family Services in 1999, FGDM continues to gain ground as an innovative approach to reversing family crisis. The program gives responsibility for making positive changes directly to the family while providing safety to children at risk.

FGDM began as a program serving Indian families in Leelanau County and the general population of Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. In late 2002 the program was opened to Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties' general population, and new referrals are occurring in response.

In 2002, 20 families were served, including 51 children. It is safe to say that without FGDM, most of these children would have been placed in foster care. Because of the program's philosophy of including family and extended family members, its reach is even wider than the numbers suggest. FGDM staff note that participants "amaze themselves" at the things they are able to accomplish for the sake of their children's safety. FGDM helps them set aside their differences and use their strengths to creatively improve their own health and the health of the family unit.

Family Resources

Lisa Thomas, Supervisor

The Family Resources program licenses foster homes, conducts home studies for adoptive families, and provides ongoing training and support to both.

Family Resources licensed 36 new foster homes in 2002, bringing the total number of foster homes licensed by the Traverse City office to 115. Three of those families became licensed as group homes in order to help address the ongoing need for homes for teenagers and large sibling groups—our thanks to those families for stepping up! Recruitment efforts are continuing to find additional homes for these special needs populations.

Family Resources also honored Joel and Caryl Hautala of Kewadin as Foster Parents of the Year, an item noted in the Traverse City Record-Eagle's Editorial "Cheers" column.

Administration

Several personnel changes among administrative staff occurred in 2002, most notably that Jim Scherrer was named Executive Director. Finance Director Mike Carda, who was appointed to his position in December 2001, now supervises all business operations. The Development office and clinical programs report to the Executive Director.

With the strong support of the Board of Directors and all staff, a dynamic process of change is occurring within Child and Family Services. The goal is to remain competitive in a challenging economy, maintain a high quality of services, and simultaneously studying opportunities to collaborate with other organizations to assure that services are not duplicated.

Revenues from state and federal grants and contracts remain uncertain for the foreseeable future. Child and Family Services is committed to assuring that services are uninterrupted and available to all who need them by increasing efforts to find private dollars for program support. The Development staff, Gina Aranki and Kathy Ferguson, is maximizing fundraising efforts, especially through the grants process and through active support of long-standing events such as the "Tee Up Fore Kids" golf outing. New in 2002 was the highly successful Festival of Tables event, which netted \$20,000 in its inaugural year. Overall, fundraising through contributions and grants totaled more than \$250,000 in 2002.

Child and Family Services is optimistic about the future even in the face of many challenges. Reinforcing that optimism are the results of the consumer survey conducted in late 2002. 78% of respondents would recommend the programs of Child and Family Services to others.

All program statistics are calendar year figures, while budget items are represented for the fiscal year. Child and Family Services' fiscal year is October 1 - September 30.

Program Highlights

Petoskey-Harbor Springs Office

Yvonne Strand, Site Director

Since the opening of the new Harbor Springs office in Spring 2001, accessibility to Child and Family Services programs in this area has never been greater. In 2002, nearly 700 people were served through counseling, foster care, adoption, Family Group Decision Making, and licensing. Thanks are due in part to the Emmet County Commission for operational support.

78 children were served in foster care in Harbor Springs in 2002, with a total of 12,601 days in care. Thanks to grants received from St. John's Episcopal Church, the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, and the Charlevoix Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council, the foster care program was able to provide extra support to foster parents for respite opportunities and for subscriptions to *Fostering Families Today*, a national monthly magazine of information, resources, and tools for foster and adoptive families. 13 new foster homes were licensed in 2002, bringing the total number of foster homes serving the Petoskey-Harbor Springs area to 36. The staff also honored Dave and Meg Rauch of Charlevoix as Foster Parents of the Year.

Seven special needs adoptions were completed in Harbor Springs in 2002, and 138 people received behavioral health services.

The Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) program facilitated 10 family meetings and action plans, assisting 29 children in the process. FGDM received financial support from the Tribal Gaming Revenue Board in 2002.

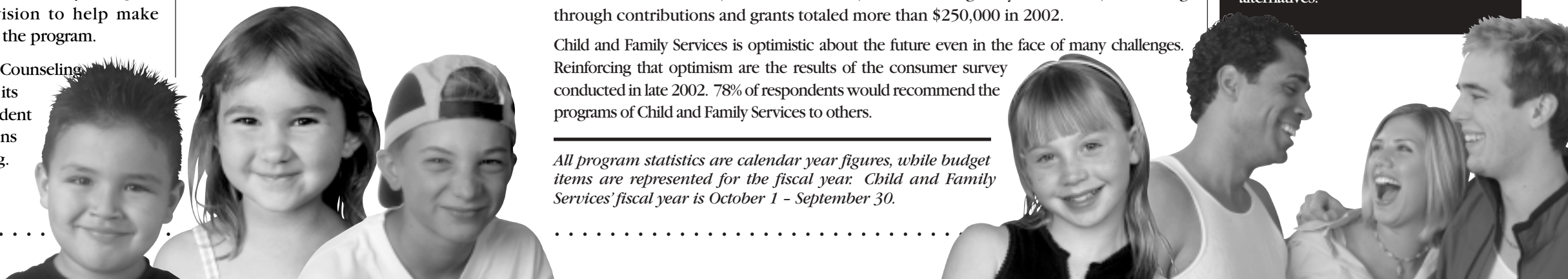
Behavioral Health

Larry Krueger, Supervisor

Behavioral Health Services encompasses family, group, and individual counseling, substance abuse assessment and treatment, and support for alleviating life's challenges.

963 people received behavioral health services in 2002, with 267 cases. 53 of those served were children aged 5-18 who were victims of sexual abuse. Through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program, these children receive treatment and support tailored to their specific needs and circumstances.

A new program in the Behavioral Health Services roster is Anger Management, an innovative, interactive series of groups for adults or youth that provides practical information about anger processes and healthier alternatives.



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Our Mission...

To promote the safety and well-being of children, adults and families by providing services that foster and develop social and emotional healing and growth.



child & family services
of Northwestern Michigan
 3785 Veterans Drive
 Traverse City, MI 49684
 231.946.8975
 fax 231.946.0451
 www.cfsnwmi.org



Council on Accreditation

Financial Statements

• FOR YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 •

Revenue

Grants & Contracts	4,100,720
Contributions & In-Kind	257,772
Program Service Fees	108,462
United Ways	22,384
Miscellaneous Income	11,824
Total Revenues	\$4,501,162

Expenditures

Wages & Benefits	2,338,616
Specific Assistance	1,669,853
Occupancy & Depreciation	178,659
Transportation	120,224
Professional Insurance & Fees	66,394
Advertising & Fundraising	49,306
Telephone	35,914
In-Kind Expenditures	26,258
Conferences & Training	24,268
Office Related & Other	104,818
Total Expenditures	\$4,614,310

Figure 1
Intensive Foster Care Discharges

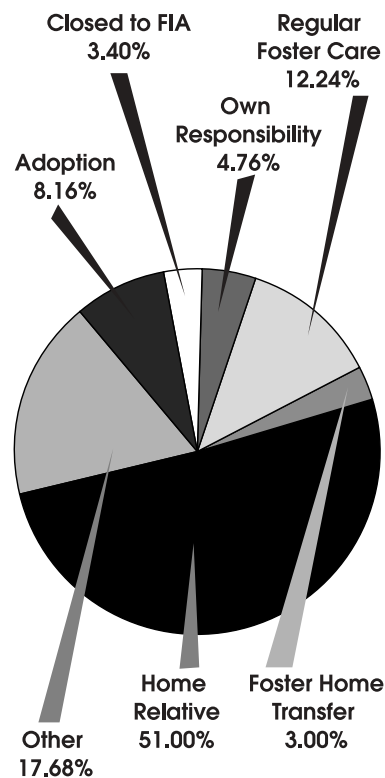
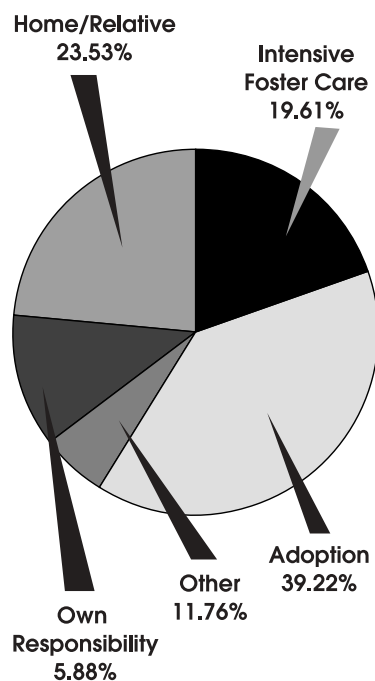


Figure 2
Regular Foster Care Discharges



Report to Stakeholders 2002

• CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES OF NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN •



child & family services
of Northwestern Michigan

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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We're in this together...

We have prepared this annual report to give you, our stakeholders, an overview of Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan in the year 2002. In these times of economic uncertainty and unpredictable funding for programs, one thing is clear: the need for humane, respectful services for children and families has never been stronger. We join with you to carry out our mission "to promote the safety and well being of children, adults and families by providing services that foster and develop social and emotional healing and growth."

The year 2002 was a year of dynamic change for CFS. We reduced our administration by two key positions, and used the savings to enhance the quality of our service to our consumers. All of our 14 programs are serving more individuals than they have in the past. Our Foster Care and Adoption programs are working effectively to help children

achieve the goal of returning to their family or adoption in less time than in previous years. Our Family Resources department has built our pool of Foster and Adopt homes to over 150 fine families. Our grant-funded programs are being used by people in need at unprecedented high levels. Our Harbor Springs office has continued to serve more children and families in its Foster Care, Family Group Decision Making and Counseling programs.

Along with meeting the increasing need for the services provided by CFS comes the equally challenging task of securing adequate funding to keep them healthy and vibrant. Never has the phrase, "we're in this together" been more valid than it is at the present time. We rely on the strength of our partnership with you, our stakeholders, to continue to seek and find creative and efficient ways to secure the resources to help meet the needs of the children and families in our communities.

I want to thank you for your connection to Child and Family Services. Whether you are a participant in our services, a member of our board of directors, one of our talented staff, one who refers children to our programs, or are one of the many generous

people who donate your time and/or financial resources to us, your contribution to our agency has never been more necessary. It is because of all of you that we face our future with hope and optimism.

Sincerely,

Jim Scherrer
 Executive Director

Program Highlights

Adoption

Carol Lemmen, Supervisor
 Carol Lemmen took over the supervisory responsibilities for Child and Family Services' Adoption program in March 2002. 39 children were adopted into loving families last year. 35 adoptions were of children identified as special needs, children who are three years or older, members of sibling groups, racial or ethnic minorities,

or have been abused or neglected. Four open infant adoptions, placements in which the biological parents choose the adoptive parents and together determine the details of the adoption and their relationship after, were completed in 2002.

New in 2002 was the addition of international adoption home studies to the services offered by the Adoption

program. This service is provided to local families who seek to adopt internationally.

