

# Report to Stakeholders 2004-05

• CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES OF NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN •

## Strengthening the Fabric of the Family Since 1937



As we enter our 69<sup>th</sup> year of serving children and families in need in northern Michigan, Child and Family Services faces increasing challenges to achieving 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.”

Changing national priorities, a declining economy, national security concerns, and the war in the Middle East have all contributed to a decline in funding needed to support our services to children. Increased operating costs (fuel, child transport, health insurance, facility costs, heating and cooling) and static or declining governmental program revenue have made it necessary to effect dramatic reductions in administrative and service staffing and other costs to insure our continued survival. Our Report to Stakeholders shows that these reductions have been successful in reversing a dangerous trend. Other organizations statewide have been less fortunate, with at least seven foster care programs or agencies closing in the past three years. In our region, these difficult times are exemplified by the temporary closing of the Boys and Girls Clubs and local schools, reductions in school teachers and staff and services in both our public and private agencies, the acquisition of the Child Guidance Clinic by Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, and leadership changes in several other agencies. The human services landscape is clearly in a period of upheaval and as a result, essential services for the most vulnerable of our citizens are being dangerously stretched.

Almost all the current programs of Child and Family Services are for those who are in the child protection, domestic violence, or victims of crime systems. In the past few weeks, we have seen several issues relevant to our work in newspapers across Michigan: a reduction in State funding for child abuse prevention programs; proposed legislation that would add the witnessing of domestic violence by children to the list of reportable child abuse and neglect; and the Ricky Holland tragedy. Ricky Holland was a seven year-old boy who was reported missing last July and whose body was found in January. His adoptive parents are currently being tried on open murder charges. Terrible details of the abuse Ricky suffered have been released as part of the trial coverage. Ricky’s death has touched thousands who have followed this story and has shed a spotlight on the importance of strongly advocating for sufficient resources to take care of the most vulnerable children. As Marty Mitchell, President of Starr Commonwealth, eloquently stated, “We must find the strength to remember within tragedy lies opportunity. We must ask, ‘What am I doing to advocate for those whose voices are so small?’”

For 69 years, Child and Family Services has been one answer to that question: a safe harbor in the lives of abused and neglected children, help for families unable to overcome life’s challenges alone. Child and Family Services’ staff, board of directors, trustees, foster parents, and supporters are committed to bringing to life our vision statement: “Serving with steadfastness and courage, CFS is a leading force for empowering human healing growth and development.” We continue our efforts to work with the state legislature to secure adequate, equitable funding and develop innovative, cost-effective, high-quality programs. We simply must keep our focus on advocacy for children—one child at a time locally as well as on the state and national levels.

My deepest thanks to our excellent staff, our committed board of directors and trustees, and those of you who have otherwise volunteered your skills and/or financial resources to help us carry out our mission. To our foster and adoptive families, there is no greater gift to children who have experienced abuse and neglect than that of a safe and loving home. Thank you for all you do for them.

I close by recognizing the recent passing of Mary Lee Lord, Executive Director of the Women’s Resource Center. Mary Lee was an inspirational leader in the northern Michigan human services community. She was relentlessly compassionate and kind, a mentor and motivator to all. She is dearly missed.

Warmly,



child & family services  
of Northwestern Michigan

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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# Child & Family Services and You... Making a Difference

## Foster Care

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. Child and Family Services and our families enjoyed excellent reunification outcomes in 2004-05 (see page D).

Foster care constitutes the largest component of Child and Family Services' roster of services, both by program and by gross revenue. 433 children were served in the program in 2004, with 179 new placements. 440 children were served in 2005, with 200 new placements.

As a result of a year-long collaborative process, three new programs were transferred from Child Guidance, Inc. to our Foster Care roster in 2004: Treatment Foster Care, which provides services to children with severe emotional, behavioral, and mental problems that compromise their ability to function in their family and their community; Crisis Respite, an alternative to emergency hospitalization for children served by Community Mental Health; and Planned Respite, a family preservation tool providing needed breaks to parents of severely emotional disturbed children.

Adjuncts to the foster care program exemplify Child and Family Services' commitment to providing high quality services, while also using referral source dollars most efficiently. These programs include Foster Parent Respite and Experiential Adventure, which offer youth supervised recreational and educational opportunities; Independent Living classes for youth who are close to "aging out" of foster care to help them learn the skills they need to make a successful transition to life on their own; the Boys Creative Outlet program, an intensive exploration of the arts and the self for young men; and the Girls' and Boys' Practicum programs, which explore career, mentoring, and community service opportunities. We are grateful to these partners for their support of our foster care programs in 2004 and 2005:

- *The Alabaster Fund*
- *Char-Em United Way*
- *Charlevoix County Community Foundation*
- *Child and Family Services of Michigan*
- *First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids*
- *Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation Youth Advisory Councils*
- *The Hagen Family Foundation*
- *Kwanis Club of Traverse City*
- *Michigan Women's Foundation*
- *Optimist Club of Traverse City*
- *Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation*
- *St. John's Episcopal Church*
- *Trinity Lutheran Church School*

Program supervisors: Jan Carda, Peg Greene, Kathryn Waldron



## Pregnancy Counseling

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, non-judgmental, and provides access to professional staff 24 hours a day, every day.

The Pregnancy Counseling program served 34 clients and their family members and provided 624 hours of counseling in 2004. 37 clients and their family members were served in 2005, with 670 hours of counseling provided.

Since Pregnancy Counseling is free to clients, its viability is dependent solely on donations and grant funding. Our deepest thanks to the following partners in providing this important service to women in our community:

- *The Allen-Heath Memorial Foundation*
- *The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians*
- *Michigan Women's Foundation, Young Women for Change*
- *Quota International of Traverse City*

Program supervisor: Carol Lemmen

## Adoption

65 children were adopted into loving families in FY 2004.\* 60 of these were of children identified as special needs—children who are three years or older, members of sibling groups, racial or ethnic minorities, or victims of abuse or neglect. In 2005 we facilitated 61 adoptions, 57 of them special needs. Five infant adoptions, in which the biological parents chose the adoptive parents and together determined the details of the adoption and their relationship after, were completed in 2004. Four infant adoptions were completed in 2005. Of the 2005 adoptions, 11 were completed on November 23 as part of the National Adoption Day celebration, during which courts around the country facilitate an unusual number of new families to raise awareness about adoption and the children in need.

We are grateful to the Stanton Charity for Children for its support of our Adoption program in 2005.

Program supervisor: Carol Lemmen





## Family Resources

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

Under the guidance of new Program Supervisor Cheryl Buyze, Family Resources licensed 25 new foster homes in 2004 and 23 in 2005, bringing the total number of foster homes licensed by the Traverse City office at this writing to 119. The Harbor Springs Family Resources program licensed 9 new homes in 2004 and 5 in 2005, with 48 total homes. Recruitment efforts are continuing to find additional homes for our special needs populations, including teens and sibling groups, and to redouble efforts to support foster and adoptive parents in recognition of their importance in the goal to help children heal and grow.

Program supervisor: Cheryl Buyze

## Behavioral Health

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

480 people received behavioral health services in 2004, 502 in 2005. 66 of those served in 2004 and 93 of those served in 2005 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.

Safe Haven Supervised Visitation and Exchange is a new program of our Behavioral Health Services unit. Safe Haven recognizes that domestic violence often increases in intensity in separation or divorce situations when the batterer attempts to regain lost control over the abused partner. In cases where the risk to parents and children does not preclude parenting time, supervised visitation can be a helpful intervention, allowing for safe, stress-free family visits for children and parents alike. The program began taking clients on a referral basis in 2004 and served three families, with significant growth in 2005 to 41 families, including 52 children ages 2 months to 17 years.

We are grateful to these partners for their support of our behavioral health programs in 2004 and 2005:

- *Benzie County Community Chest*
- *Cadillac Area Community Foundation*
- *United Way of Northwest Michigan*

Program supervisor: Larry Krueger

## Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)

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.

In 2004, 11 families were served, including 25 children, and 9 families in 2005, including 24 children. It is safe to say that without FGDM, 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.

We are grateful to The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for their generous support of the FGDM program in 2004 and 2005.

Program supervisor: Cynthia Stern



## Administration

With the strong support of the Board of Directors and our staff, a dynamic process of change is occurring within Child and Family Services. Our goal is to remain competitive in a challenging economy, maintain a high quality of services, and 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 office is maximizing fundraising efforts in a variety of areas, including grants, individual donations, and through soliciting volunteer and sponsorship support of long-standing events such as the "Tee Up Fore Kids" golf outing. In its 5<sup>th</sup> year in 2006, the highly successful Festival of Tables event netted \$71,045 in 2004 and \$82,993 in 2005. 2002 Volunteer of the Year Linda Sommerville, who brought the idea of Festival of Tables to Child and Family Services, joined the Development staff in 2005. Overall, fundraising through contributions and grants totaled \$405,491 in 2004 and \$414,340 in 2005.

Child and Family Services is optimistic about the future despite our challenges. We anticipate facing them with innovation and creativity—and your continued support.

# Financial Statements

FISCAL YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 & 2004

## Board of Directors

Sheila Morgan - *President*  
 Todd Endresen  
 Erik Falconer  
 Holly Hack  
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 Galen Krupka  
 Kenneth Petterson  
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 Jack L. Otto - *Treasurer*  
 EmmLee Clancey - *Asst. Treasurer*

## 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

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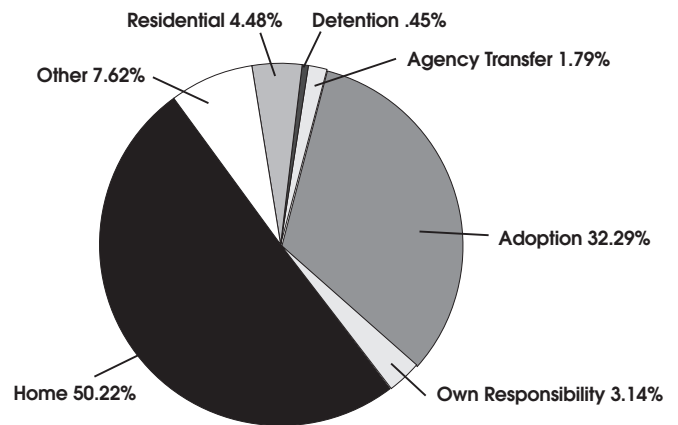
## Revenue

	2005	2004
<b>Contributions</b>		
Individual & Organization	234,343	233,674
In Kind	74,046	36,856
United Ways	12,352	11,387
Foundations, Trusts, Grants	93,598	123,575
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>414,339</b>	<b>405,492</b>
Purchase of Service, Govt.	4,185,238	4,214,336
Program Grants, Govt.	330,498	378,005
Purchase of Service, Private	108,058	91,117
Miscellaneous Income	31,536	28,224
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,069,669</b>	<b>\$5,117,174</b>

## Expense

Staff Wages and Fringe	2,488,787	2,628,735
Specific Assistance	1,897,081	1,910,104
Occupancy & Office, related	322,881	323,223
Travel, Transport & Training	170,032	191,936
Advertising & Fundraising	123,200	101,394
Other Expenses	69,592	80,509
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,071,573</b>	<b>\$5,235,901</b>

## Foster Care Discharges 2004



## Foster Care Discharges 2005

