



CENTER
FOR
FAMILIES
AND
CHILDREN

Making success possible



Early Learning

All parents worry over their children's progress. So, when Alicia's parent's first brought their daughter to Mather Early Learning Center because she had been diagnosed with autism, their concern was palpable and, of course, understandable.

At the time, Alicia was 3 years old but was almost a year behind developmentally. She had been referred to Mather by a special-needs coordinator at Cleveland Metropolitan School District, who was working with the family and had made other successful referrals to Mather for children with autism.

"Alicia needed a lot of guidance," explained Pam Millar, Mather's site manager. "We needed to work closely with her to improve her speech, physical abilities and all-around functioning to bring her closer to her age level so that she could enter into the school system."

For example, the teachers made picture cue cards to increase her verbal skills and encourage daily routines, such as going to the bathroom and hand washing.

"These were especially successful with potty training, which we needed to approach in a different way because our usual tactics were not working," Pam explained. "One of her teachers made a strip of four illustrations, visually walking her through and reminding her of the process."

This visual communication worked well with the way Alicia learned, and, ultimately, led to her being potty

trained. "The reminder strip worked so well that we ended up using them for all of our students," Pam added.

Another important aspect of the Mather staff's work was with Alicia's parents.

"As parents, they just wanted the best for their daughter," Pam said. "It was an educational process for them, and we were learning, too. We helped them to understand that she is going to succeed in her own way and be a happy little girl."

Thanks to the teamwork, Alicia's parents, Alicia, CMSD and Mather staff, Alicia—now 6—successfully transitioned into the CMSD and is doing well.

"Her communication skills are much better, and she is so happy," Pam said. "She is my first

person here in the morning in our before-school program, greets all our animals and holds Mather's rabbit, Buttercup.

"All the teachers have a relationship with Alicia and her parents. It makes everyone feel good when you can assure

parents that the staff will keep their child safe and help them learn and develop at their own pace. It is important that parents understand that staff deals with each child in response to the child's needs.

"It's all about Alicia and her family knowing they are all succeeding and that she can survive and thrive. She has skills, and she is going to be okay. Those are the things parents need to know about their children."

"She is going to succeed in her own way and be a happy little girl"

CFC's Early Learning programs—at our five Early Learning Centers and throughout the community—focus on preparing **young children to be ready for school.**

For more information, please contact Sondra Jones, Vice President of Children, Youth and Family Services at sjones@c4fc.org or 216/325-9290.



Behavioral Health

When Jim first entered at CFC's doors, he was severely in need of our help. "He could not focus on our conversation and was extremely tearful and hopeless," explained Behavioral Health Caseworker Melissa Heidemann, who has been working with him for three years.

"He had a chronically severe history of suicide attempts, and, at one point, was going to the hospital on a weekly basis. He told me that he kept attempting suicide because of the extreme intensity of the voices he heard. And he was using crack cocaine and alcohol daily.

After being evicted from his CMHA housing unit, 56-year-old Jim was homeless and was living in places not meant for human habitation. He had no family support and had cut ties with everyone who had provided support for him in his life.

He had received mental health treatment from other agencies in the past, but, after repeatedly failing to follow through with his treatment regimes, was turned away when he would try to go back.

"I began a course of intensive treatment with Jim and worked hard to earn his trust and fully engage him in the treatment process," Melissa said.

"I provide him with case management services, a CFC physician provides him psychiatric services and a CFC nurse provides him pill minders and injections.

CFC's Behavioral Health Services help people with mental illness **experiencing recovery and a better quality of life**. Our services are available to children, adolescents, adults and families. *For more information, please contact Mary Hull, Vice President of Program Services at mhull@c4fc.org or 216/325-9382.*

"This place changes lives"

"As a result, this remarkable man has made great strides in his life. Since we started working together, he has had only a few hospitalizations and has not been hospitalized at all in the last year.

And, after many attempts and failures, he is proud to have recently completed a drug and alcohol treatment program.

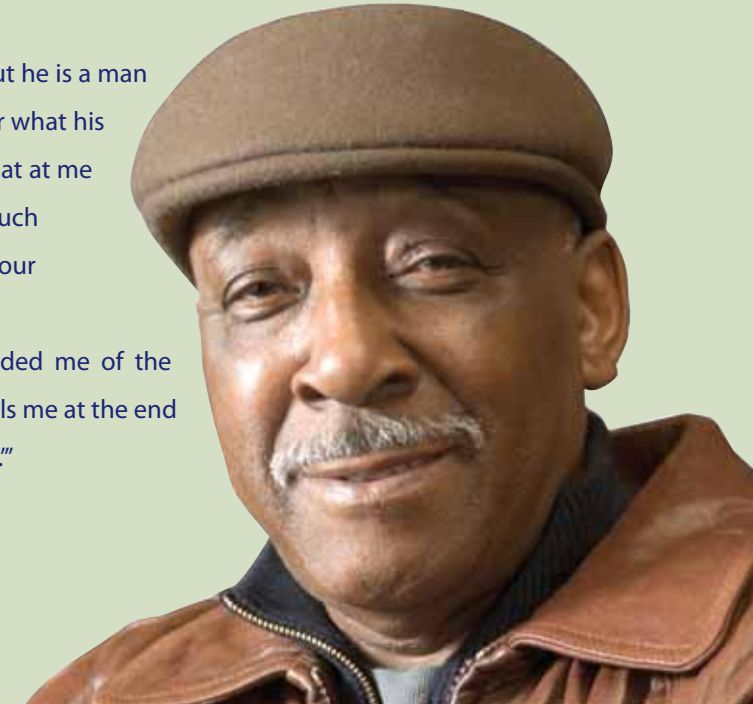
"Jim has recently regained contact and rebuilt relationships with two of his siblings—and is actually living in a duplex with his sister. His family is more involved in his treatment and recovery, and they have told me that the positive changes they see in their brother give them hope."

Melissa said that

working with Jim has meant a lot to her.

"There have been many struggles, but he is a man with so much hope," she said. "No matter what his situation, he always smiles and tips his hat at me when I see him. He has taught me so much about the strength and survival skills of our clients.

"He has, on many occasions, reminded me of the value of a positive attitude, and often tells me at the end of our sessions, 'This place changes lives.'"



Youth Development

In her role as a prevention educator and art therapist in CFC's RapArt program, Prevention Group Facilitator Laurel Hopkins leads a school-based program for seventh and eighth grade girls called "S.E.L.F.," which stands for Strong Empowered Leading Females. SELF addresses topics relevant to this population, including body image, safe sex education, gossip, "mean girls," family and friends and alcohol, tobacco and other drugs prevention.

Laurel has been working with her current group of girls for two years. In that time, she has found that the more she gets to know each of these young women, the more they bring to the table and begin to trust her.

Recently, Laurel's group decided to have a mother-daughter night to share the good work they have accomplished and to talk about what they had learned about themselves and others.

Here is how Laurel describes the evening:

"I planned a simple art project for the evening activity. When I arrived, every single girl was there with her mother.

"They remembered to bring all of their art work, and when prompted shared opinions, ideas, thoughts and emotions evoked from their creations. They were expressive and quirky, revealing and honest.

"They were expressive and quirky, revealing and honest."

"As I looked around the room I saw looks of shock and surprise on many of the mother's faces. I realized that this

must be a side of their daughters that they had yet to witness.

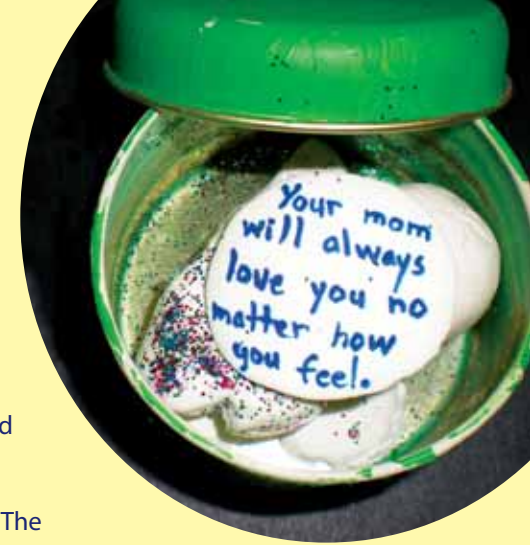
"We moved into the art activity, which was to create a symbol for your mother or daughter out of clay, to be housed in a small wooden box.

"The girls and mothers worked separately and diligently. The separate tables had a similar feel, however, with plenty of talking, laughing, glitter flying everywhere and beautiful creations.

"When it came time to exchange gifts there were smiles, laughter and tears of joy. I think what was provided was a moment in time where each mother and daughter could feel a connection to one another without any inhibitions.

"By the end of the night, I had mothers coming up to me and thanking me for this experience and for helping them raise their daughters. This was a moment for me that I will never forget. In this job, things can get hectic as we go from place to place and from meeting to meeting.

"This evening was a wonderful reminder to me of what I do and why I do it."



Through a variety of in-school and community programs, RapArt's high-quality services and unique multimedia approach help inspire youth to make **healthy life choices and contribute to their communities**. For more information, please contact Pamela Bradford, Director of Youth Services at pbradford@c4fc.org or 216/932-9497

Access to Opportunities

As is the case with many of CFC's re-entry clients, Jay's recent incarceration—this time for a 2008 robbery—was not his first. He had previously served time on drug-related offenses. This time, though, Jay reacted differently to his incarceration: He was now ready to make a change and eager to enroll his family in CFC's re-entry program, Children of Incarcerated Parents: Breaking the Cycle (CIP).

"In fact, during one of our twice-monthly recruiting sessions at a state prison facility in Lorain, Jay told us that he was tired of coming back to prison and needed to find a way to break this cycle," said Rhonda Drake, a CIP case manager.

"He participated regularly in CIP's parenting classes. And, he was very engaged with his children and parenting partner, the mother of their children, during their monthly visits."

Both parents interacted together with their sons at the enhanced family visits at Richland.

"During one visit a few months ago, the family worked side by side to design a "gratitude leaf garland," Rhonda explained. "All the family members contributed to the activity and shared their insights with other participating families. It was clear that this father and his family were grateful he was coming home soon."

Today, Jay has been out of prison for more than two months and—remembering behaviors from his

previous releases that resulted in eventual returns to prison—is determined to break this cycle and avoid making the same mistakes.

"This time around, Jay has been proactive in finding employment," Rhonda said. "The first week after his release from prison, he began networking with a local contractor. He's hoping to enroll in an apprentice-skills achievement program, pursuing his goal of becoming a pipe fitter.

"He also chose to live in a halfway house immediately after release in order to challenge himself to change and focus on positive directions. This housing move is often suggested to men at release in order to allow them to maintain some stability and schedule until they adjust to life outside of

prison. It was a good move on his part and has helped in his transition to rejoining his family."

This father and mother, along with their two sons, remain actively engaged in the CIP program and

continue to receive supportive family services. Of course, they have weathered their share of challenges, particularly when Jay found a job, only to be laid off shortly thereafter. Despite this setback with employment, he remains positive and motivated to find another job.

"I'm inspired by Jay's determination to break the cycle of incarceration and proud to support this family as they work as a team to make a better life for themselves," Rhonda said.

"I'm inspired by Jay's determination to break the cycle of incarceration"



CFC's Re-Entry programs offer family case management services to support our clients' transition from incarceration back into the community and work to break the cycle of incarceration for their children. For more information, please contact Danny Bryan, Director, Family Access to Opportunities at dbryan@c4fc.org or 216/325-9431.

CFC: Changing lives and communities



Young children ready for school

Our five **early learning centers** provide families with high-quality educational programs. Each site successfully achieved Step Up to Quality ratings, with four sites receiving the highest rating of three stars and a two-star rating for the fifth.



Youth making healthy choices and contributing to their communities

Alcohol and other drug prevention services are provided at the **RapArt Center**, as well as in 30 schools from five area school systems, incorporating the arts to help young people build the skills they need to make healthy, positive life choices.



People with mental illness experiencing recovery and a better quality of life

Adults with severe mental illness receive services from CFC's **Behavioral Health Services**, including community-based services that help adults overcome barriers to independent functioning in the community. CFC also provides comprehensive individualized counseling to Medicaid-eligible children and teens.



Parents and adults with stable families, engaging in education, training and career and contributing to the community

CFC's **CH-UH Family to Family Initiative** offers neighborhood-based wrap-around services to ensure the safety and well-being of children and promote family stability. **Re-entry Services** support incarcerated parents as they transition back into the community and reunify with their families. The **Fathers and Families Together (FAFT)** program provides educational and family-focused activities for men and their children.



Employees at work and focused on the job

EASE@Work offers employee assistance services to over 130 Ohio-based employers, including corporations, universities, school systems, labor unions, nonprofits and county and municipal government employers.



Advocacy for greater impact

Effective, practical **strategic advocacy** to remove societal barriers, achieve broader systems change and ensure adequate community investment in our client service areas.

Our Mission

Changing lives and communities through client service, advocacy and collective action

Our Vision

Making success possible in school, work and life for people in Northeast Ohio's most challenged communities

Our Shared Values

- Every person is deserving of hope, dignity and purpose
- Everything we do is focused on impact, quality and addressing root cause problems

Our Program Locations

Behavioral Health

To make a first-time appointment, please call 216/432-7230

East Office

4400 Euclid Avenue • Cleveland 44103
216/431-5800

RapArt

CFC at Taylor Commons
1941 South Taylor Road
Cleveland Heights • 44118
216/932-9497

Hispanic Office

4115 Bridge Avenue – Suite 309
Cleveland • 44113
216/651-1860

Southwest Office

5955 Ridge Road • Cleveland • 44129
440/888-0300

West Office

3929 Rocky River Dr. • Cleveland • 44111
216/252-5800

Youth Development & Family Services

CH-UH Family to Family Collaborative

1941 South Taylor Road
Cleveland Heights • 44118
216/320-9520

Fathers and Families Together (FAFT)

4500 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland • 44103
216/325-9431

RapArt

CFC at Taylor Commons
1941 South Taylor Road
Cleveland Heights • 44118
216/932-9497

Re-entry Services

4500 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland • 44103
216/325-9431

Early Learning

Bingham Early Learning Center
2421 Central Avenue • Cleveland • 44115
216/621-1782

Mather Early Learning Center
9203 Union Avenue • Cleveland • 44105
216/271-0095

McMillan Early Learning Center

CFC at Taylor Commons
1941 South Taylor Road
Cleveland Heights • 44118
216/932-9497

Rainbow Terrace Early Learning Center

7255 Garden Valley Avenue
Cleveland • 44104
216/441-1520

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9111 Yale Avenue
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216/761-4994

Employee Assistance Services
EASE@WORK • 216/325-9375

Administrative Offices
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44103 • 216/432-7200 • www.c4fc.org



Center for Families and Children's 2008 Annual Report

Changing lives and communities through client services, advocacy and collective action. This is the mission of the Center for Families and Children. Our mission comes alive through these four strategic goals that are the foundation of the new strategic plan we launched in 2008:



1. Exceptional **client services** with demonstrated impact in early learning, youth development and behavioral health, with a particular focus on providing access to options and opportunities for parents and adults living in poverty.
2. Effective, practical **strategic advocacy** to remove societal barriers, achieve broader systems change and ensure adequate community investment in our client service areas.
3. Model and build **collaborations** in Northeast Ohio that could achieve the bold changes required to rebuild the fabric of our community and widen the opportunity for prosperity.
4. Be the **healthiest organization** we can be.

We emerged from the strategic planning process with renewed energy, relentless focus and shared aspirations for our clients and community, and were overwhelmed by the results in 2008. Despite significant challenges and reductions in funding, we provided more service than ever before and ended the year in a strong financial position. Our funders, donors and supporters continued to invest in us and help us tell our story. Our common and uncommon community partners worked with us to achieve more together than we could alone. Our Board and staff were aligned around the right issues and priorities, and the partnership between us was stronger than ever. Our staff leadership team worked together to navigate through difficult times and to see obstacles as opportunities. Our staff was energized, motivated and more productive than ever. Their passion and dedication kept our mission alive. Our clients amazed and inspired us and gave us hope.

We are very grateful for your continuing support.
Together, we are making a difference.

Bruce A. McCrodden
Bruce A. McCrodden
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Sharon Sobol Jordan
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Continental Airlines
Crate and Barrel
CTRAC information solutions
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

Dell, Inc.
Eaton Corporation
Embassy Suites Cleveland—Downtown
Euro Vin Importers, Inc.
Event Source
Linda Fletcher
Foote Printing
Foster's Wine Estates Americas
Christine Frey
Fusion, Inc.
The Grateful Palate
Gray & Company, Publishers
Great Lakes Brewing Company
Greater Cleveland Sports Commission
Renee Hastings
Mary Haymond
Heinen's Inc.
Helzberg Diamonds
Jason Hillman
House of Blues Cleveland, LLC
The House of LaRose
Mike & Casey Hughes
Neal Huntington
IBM Healthcare – Central Region
International Council of Motorsport Sciences
JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa
KeyBank
The Kirby Company
William F. Knoble
Kobrand Corporation
Elaine Korte
Lake Erie Monsters
Lakeshore Northeast Ohio Computer Association
LeBron James Family Foundation
L'Ecole No 41
Liberty Harley-Davidson
LifeBanc
Littler Mendelson
Live Nation
Lola's
Look About Lodge
MAGNET
Marsh
The Mayfield Country Club Golf Shop
McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant
Stephen McHale

Sandy McMillan
Steve Miller
Mirage Studio
Moët Hennessy USA
Anne Marie Mulcahy
National City
David O'Brien
Omni Severin Hotel
Oprah's Angel Network
Oswald Companies
Pepper Bridge Winery
Playhouse Square Foundation
Heather Posner
Meghan Price
The PrivateBank
Luis M. Proenza
Progressive Casualty Insurance Company
Prosperity Social Club
Q104 Radio
Quaker Square Inn at The University of Akron
Jackie Rippin
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
Saeco USA
Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort
Rich Schiferl
SearchFirst Information Management Company
Seneca Allegany
Mark Shapiro
Shoot for the Moon Foundation
Shoreby Club
Southwest Airlines Co.
Nancy Sparlin
St. Michael's Youth Group
Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
The Step2 Company
Streets Of Manhattan
Matt Swings
That's Life with Robin Swoboda
Thomas R. Riley Galleries
Rosalind Thompson
Trevarrow Inc.
Union League Club of Chicago
Joan Verba
Vintner Select
Christina Wilson
Eliza Wing
WKYC-TV 3
Barbara Wolfort
World Book, Inc.

2008 Financial Operating Report*

Sources of Revenue

Governmental

Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board	\$ 7,271,000
Cuyahoga Department of Employment & Family Services	\$ 1,280,000
Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland	\$ 973,000
Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County	\$ 804,000
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction	\$ 721,000
other governmental funders	\$ 2,829,000
	\$13,878,000

United Way of Greater Cleveland \$ 1,376,000

Contributions

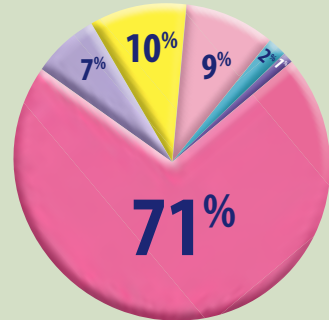
foundations and trusts	\$ 1,428,000
special events	\$ 265,000
individuals and businesses	\$ 133,000
	\$ 1,826,000

EASE@Work \$ 1,780,000

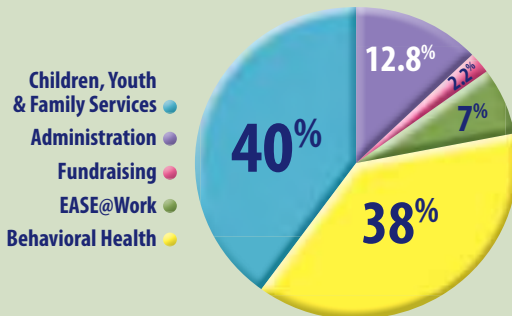
Client payments for services \$ 438,000

Other \$ 181,000

Total Operating Revenue \$ 19,479,000



- Governmental
- United Way of Greater Cleveland
- Contributions
- EASE@Work
- Client payments for service
- Other



- Children, Youth & Family Services
- Administration
- Fundraising
- EASE@Work
- Behavioral Health

Uses of Revenue

salaries/taxes/benefits cost	\$ 14,491,000
occupancy and other associated costs	\$ 1,497,000
contracted services	\$ 1,321,000
office/site operations	\$ 1,149,000
other business expenses	\$ 925,000
special events	\$ 88,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 19,471,000

Operating revenues over operating expenses \$8,000

*This financial operating report was prepared on an operating basis. Thus, it may not contain all the applicable revenue or expense items required under G.A.A.P.(Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States). For complete financial information see the Center for Families and Children (CFC) audited financial report which is available for inspection at CFC's office.

A contract agency of...



*The Council for Economic
Opportunities in Greater Cleveland*

*Cuyahoga County Board
of County Commissioners*



State of Ohio

Accredited by...



*The National Association for the
Education of Young Children*



A partner agency of...



United Way of
Greater Cleveland



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FOR
FAMILIES
AND
CHILDREN

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