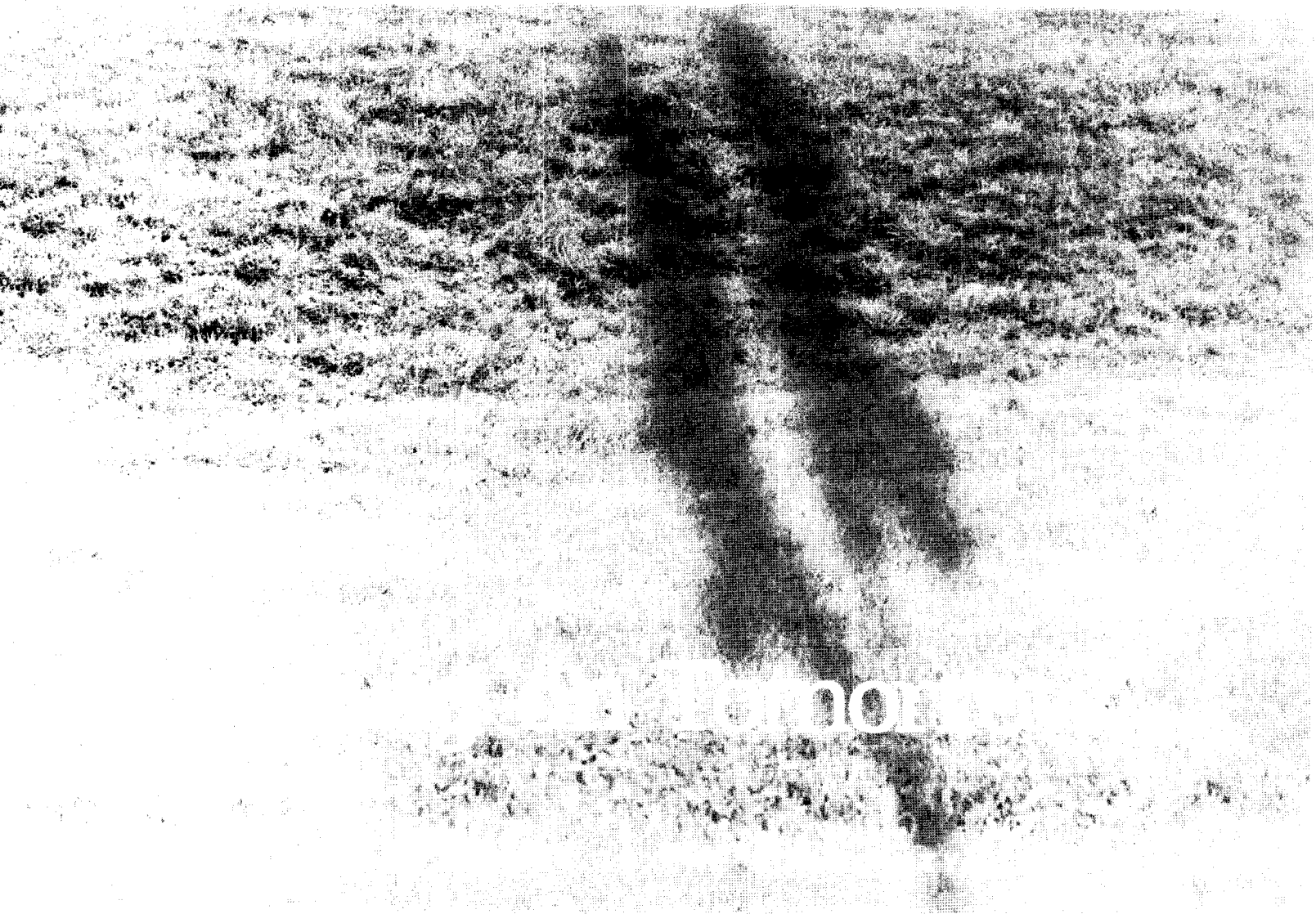
Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children





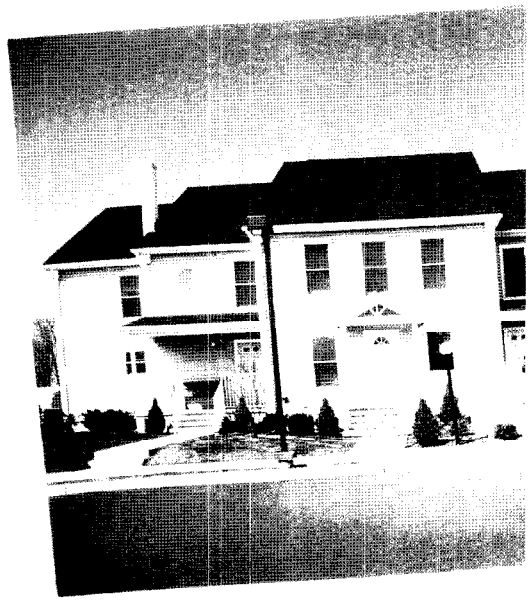
Focusing on Tomorrow...

Not all young people have the opportunity to learn necessary living skills. Because of various circumstances, many of them have a home environment that prevents them from learning these skills to live life without worrying about where their next meal is coming from or where they will sleep at night.

Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children affords that opportunity.

By *focusing on tomorrow,* we help prepare today's youth for tomorrow's challenges.

The image on the cover depicts two Somerset Home residents celebrating their high school graduation and the brighter future they now possess. This moment of joy would not have been possible without the generous contributions we have received over the years.



It all started from a single bright idea in the summer of 1968. The evening Membership Division of the Somerset Civic League had an idea to create a home for displaced children. That notion has developed into an organization, which now serves dozens of youths daily with residential and outreach services.

The Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children was chartered as a non-profit organization in 1973. Initially, its first goal was to provide emergency shelter to abused, abandoned and neglected children. Today's mission statement still stipulates that the shelter provide this service, but the range of ways in which area youths are being pointed toward a life of fulfillment is ever increasing. Since 1973, the agency has helped over four thousand young people, from runaways to the homeless to adolescents waiting to be placed in proper foster homes.

During the 1980s, two more programs, PATHWAYS LIFE-SKILLS EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM and PASSAGES TRANSITIONAL LIVING GROUP HOME, were added to complete the process of bringing disadvantaged youth back into society, armed with self-confidence and determination.



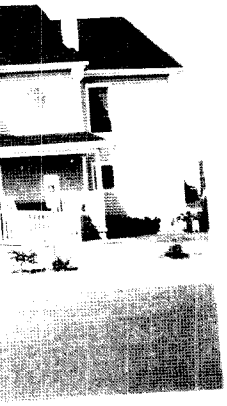
For every youth who needs the services of Somerset Home, the Path to Change begins with a generous donor. When a contribution (of $250 or more) is made, a brick is engraved with the name or message of the donor's choice and installed in our *Walk of Fame,* which leads to a tranquil spot in the garden of the Somerset Youth Shelter.

Proceeds from the *Walk of Fame,* along with other sources, enable the Somerset Home to provide high-quality services to abused, neglected and abandoned adolescents. The catalysts for change are the steadfast efforts of the qualified, caring and compassionate staff who work diligently to support the needs and repair the dignity of each adolescent who passes through our doors.



"I plan on leaving this program and continue school then start my own business." —JM (Age 16)

"I see myself in the near future, I will have a successful job in computer graphic designing. I will have a car and apartment. I see that life will be good for me." —MP (Age 18)



"I see myself as being a more responsible, less stressful person. I will finish college and try to live a peaceful life" —TR (Age 17)

"I see myself going to college, getting my life together. I see myself finishing college; get a good job that pays me a lot. Have a wonderful family and be happy. Thanks." —AG (Age 18)

"My future plans are to finish school and go to college. I want to live a better life and to work hard for everything I want. I want to get a trade in carpentry and become much wiser and stronger! To fulfill all my dreams, goals, and to grow into a successful, responsible woman!!" —SJ (Age 17)

"My future plans are the following: college, law school, marriage, children and pushing myself to the fullest. I intend to strive for all these things through hard work, dedication, diligence and being my true self." —LK (Age 17)

The Somerset Youth Shelter is a short-term crisis intervention program that serves adolescents, 13 to 21 years of age, who have been abused, neglected or thrown away by their parents or caretakers. While at the shelter, each adolescent receives food, clothing, counseling, parenting-prevention education, drug abuse prevention education, and basic- and life-skills education.

Number of adolescents served by Somerset Youth Shelter in 1999

TOTAL CLIENTS
119

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY
42 days

PRIMARY REASON FOR PLACEMENT

Abuse	31% (37)
Neglect	28% (33)
Substance	20% (24)
No parent figure	10% (12)
Throwaway	11% (13)

A new program called Street S.M.A.R.T. (Somerset Mobile Adolescent Resource Team) was implemented in September 1998. The goal of this street outreach program is to provide education and prevention services to reduce the incidence of sexual abuse of runaway, homeless and street youth. Program services are targeted to youth who are living in unsafe environments or on the street and are at-risk of sexual abuse and/or exploitation.

The program's main goal is to provide youth with food, clothing, and blankets while on the streets and provide easy access to the Somerset Youth Shelter program to get them off the street and into a safe environment, reducing the incidence of sexual abuse.

Number of adolescents served by Street S.M.A.R.T. outreach workers in 1999

TOTAL CLIENTS
52



Somerset Youth Shelter and Street S.M.A.R.T. (Street Outreach) Program





This is Miguel's Story...

Miguel was born in Colombia, South America. He lived there with his parents, brother and two sisters. When he was 10 years old, his family moved to the United States – except for his father, who could not come because of immigration problems.

In 1993, one year after moving here, Miguel's mother was diagnosed with cancer. Miguel's father was still not allowed to come to the United States and Miguel was experiencing difficulty in school. There were language problems, and the family was facing serious financial crisis.

Things were not getting better for Miguel. His difficulties in school continued and his behavioral problems increased. Miguel's mother's condition became terminal. In early 1998, Miguel's mother died. He and his siblings moved in with a family member. Within a month, Miguel found himself moving from relative to relative, as his family did not want to deal with all of Miguel's "excess baggage." There were few relatives and Miguel soon went through all of them.

At 17, Miguel found himself alone, frustrated and extremely angry. He had not spoken to his father in months and had no desire to do so. He could barely read, and was not attending school regularly. That's when Miguel came to the Somerset Youth Shelter looking for help.

Miguel was scared and uncertain of his future. Through the therapy Miguel received at the shelter, he was able to deal with and better understand his issues of abandonment, grief and feelings of anger. Through life-skills education at the shelter, Miguel obtained the skills necessary to get and keep a job. Unfortunately, Miguel's reading skills were so poor that he was not able to be a candidate for a G.E.D. (general equivalency diploma) program. A tutor worked individually with Miguel on his reading. As his reading skills improved, so did his self-esteem. He now feels his educational goals are achievable and is working confidently towards them.

After a three-month stay, Miguel graduated to an independent living program. He keeps in contact with his case manager and some of the other staff members. Miguel is employed with the same food market chain at a store near his new program. His bank account continues to grow. He is still working towards his G.E.D. goal, and reports that he is even working to repair the strained relationships with his family. "It's a lot easier now that they see I'm making better decisions and trying to do something with my life. My mother would be proud."

The Pathways Life-Skills Education Program is non-residential and provides adolescents with life-skills training, an adult and youth-to-youth mentor program, a parenting-prevention program, outreach, and weekend life-skills retreats.

Adolescents are eligible to participate in services offered if they reside in any residential program of the Somerset Home, live in the community, or are 16 to 21 years of age.

Number of adolescents served by Pathways in 1999

TOTAL CLIENTS
291

FACTORS FOR REFERRAL

Lack of Employment Skills	72%	(211)
Family / Child Conflict	32%	(94)
Homeless	1%	(4)
Lack of Independent Living Skills	86%	(252)
Involved in the Juvenile Justice System	10%	(31)
Physical / Sexual Abuse	15%	(44)
Pregnancy / Teen Parent	3%	(1)
Substance Abuse / Family	6%	(19)
Lack of Supervision / Neglect	1%	(4)



Pathways Life-Skills Education and Outreach Program

A letter from RC, age 18

I began participating in Pathways when I was a resident at Passages. Shortly after I arrived my mother became ill and passed away. At that time I decided to return home to live with my siblings. I was going through a hard time and I really didn't know what to expect. After talking with the staff, I decided that staying in the Pathways program would really help me adjust and get on my feet. Pathways helped me get a job (with a work schedule that allowed me to attend the weekly Pathways meeting) and to enroll in adult night school near my home so I could continue to earn my high school diploma.



It's been a couple of months now and I'm on my feet working hard and still attending Pathways. I continue to learn about substance abuse issues, dangers of smoking, HIV/AIDS prevention and the other life skills that I need to live successfully on my own. Also, I am able to work on my personal issues, such as planning my future, with the Pathways staff. It's not easy taking care of myself, but through Pathways I have gained the skills and the confidence to know I can make it, really make it, not just "get by." It is also really important to me that I have the support of other kids who are struggling with the same issues I am, so I never feel like I'm alone. I like thinking maybe I'm an example to them, "If I can do it, they can do it!"

Passages Transitional Living Program

Passages Transitional Living Program is a residential program for young men and women, ages 16 to 21, who are in need of life-skills education and plan to live independently in the community after leaving the program. While at Passages, adolescents must attend school, be employed and begin to save money, looking toward a future of independence. After a stay of up to 18 months, graduates receive outreach and support to enable them to continue meeting their goal of living a happy, productive and independent life.

Number of adolescents served by Passages in 1999

TOTAL CLIENTS
17

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY
9 months

FACTORS FOR REFERRAL

Abuse	24% (4)
Neglect	35% (6)
Throwaway	29% (5)
Homeless	12% (2)





This is Dan's Story...

I first entered Passages at the age of 17. My mother was no longer able to take care of me, and I needed a place to live. Although the Passages staff welcomed me with open arms, I was a bit reluctant to trust anyone because of all my recent hardships. The staff's warmth and honesty, however, made it very easy for me to trust them. Soon after my arrival at Passages, I started a new school. My case manager at Passages assured me I would make friends easily, and she was right.

Soon enough, I had new friends and even joined the basketball team. My next step was to find a job. I knew what I was interested in, but I didn't know how to fill out an application or prepare for my interview. Passages staff helped me, by doing mock interviews with me and helping me fill out my applications. Within a week, I had a job at a local store making $9.00 an hour. I deposited 75 percent of my checks into my bank account and by the end of my first summer at Passages I had $3,000.

My senior year in high school was a bit tough. I knew I had to pass all my classes in order to graduate and I was really having trouble with my math class. Fortunately, my case manager at Passages arranged for a tutor to come and help me three times a week. I ended up graduating with all B's. After graduation, I had $5,000 saved. With the help of my life skills classes, I knew how to look for an apartment and how to budget in order to pay my bills. I could live on my own as an independent adult.

I now take classes at the local community college at night and I still have the same job, except now I'm an assistant manager. I still come back to Passages to participate in house meetings with the current residents and share my success with them. Thanks to Passages, my life is on the right track. I can't imagine what my life would be like had I never met all the wonderful, caring staff members at Passages who guided me in the right direction.

1999 Contributors

$10,000.00 & OVER

J.M. McDonald Foundation, Inc.

New Jersey Department of Education

New Jersey Department of Human Services

New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services

New Jersey Human Services Capital Bond

Edwin E. Perkins Foundation

Rutgers Community Health Foundation

County of Somerset

Somerset County Vocational Technical High School

United States Department of Health and Human Services

United Stated Department of Housing and Urban Development - Community Development Block Grant

United Way of Somerset County

WB 11/WPIX Robert M. McCormick Foundation

$5,000.00 & OVER

The Bunbury Company, Inc.

James E. and Diane W. Burke Foundation,Inc.

The Danelle Foundation

Fleet Bank

Linus Gilbert Foundation

E.J. Grassmann Trust

Johnson and Johnson Corporate Contributions Fund

Laraja Foundation, Inc.

The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation

Ronald McDonald House Charities

The Tyler Foundation

Union Foundation

Edward and Stella Van Houten Memorial Fund

The Hyde and Watson Foundation

$2,500.00 & OVER

The Amboy Foundation, Inc.

Bonaventura Devine Foundation Inc.

Bridgewater Senior Center

Clermont Foundation

Ms. Bonita Digrius and Mr. Jack Keen

Drinker, Biddle, and Reath

National Starch and Chemical Foundation, Inc.

New York Merchantile Exchange

PriceWaterhouseCoopers

Schering-Plough Corporation

United National Bank

$1,000.00 & OVER

Anonymous #3

Mr. and Mrs. David Bobier

Bristol Myers Squibb Company

Carpenter, Bennett and Morrissey

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Caruso

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Christiansen

The Chubb Corporation

Mr. and Mrs. Audley Clamporcero

Mr. Paul Daly

Dombal-Vogel Foundation

Ethicon, Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Fantuzzi

The Friends of Archie Chiles

Hoechst Celanese Corporation

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald A. Krilla

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Metzger

Ortho Dermatological

Phillips-Van Heusen Co.

Michael F. Price Foundation, Inc.

Public Service Electric and Gas

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rears

Roche Molecular Systems

Jean and Charles Segal Foundation

Shanley and Fisher

Somerset Savings Bank

Sovereign Bank Foundation

United Way of Plainfield, North Plainfield, Fanwood and Scotch Plains

John H. Van Winkle Foundation

Ms. Lisa Warren and Mr. Robert Cantlay

Ms. E. Carolyn Zachary

$500.00 & OVER

Advantage Bank

Mr. Michael Alessandrini

Amwell Auto Boby

Bridgewater Commons

Brunswick Bank and Trust Co.

Mr. Michael V Camerino

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Cassimatis

Ms. Marguerite Chandler and Mr. Richmond Shreve

The Congregational Church of Bound Brook

Mr. and Mrs. Richard D Addabbo

Margaret A. Darrin Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Albert E Dazzo

Mr. Thomas English

Emmanuel Reformed Episcopal Church

Evangel Chapel

Mr. Edward Fantuzzi

Foster Wheeler Corporation

Fox Broadcasting Company

Mr. Martin Gleason

Ms. Debra Gouldie

Ms. Rita Guhl

Lowell and Toby Harwood Foundation

Hillsborough Reformed Church

Ms. Joanne Jaeger

Janssen Parmaceutica Products, L.P.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip S. Johnson

Mr. snd Mrs. Scott T. Jones

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Karp

Ms. Madonna Malin

Mr. Alan Murphy

Mr. John Nasser

Nutter, McClennen and Fish, LLP

Mr. and Mrs. Noel W. Parkes

Mr. John Pittman

Mr. Don S. Siegel

Mr. Cliff Snow

Ms. Stephanie Susens

$250.00 & OVER

ARC Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Arlt

Automatic Data Processing

BAMCO Inc.

M. Boone

Ms. Nancy Brown

Mr. Stephen M. Budai and Ms. Virginia Bellows

Mr. Ben Chapman

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Colligan Jr.

Mr. Gary Czuprynа

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Dwyer

Emmanuel Reformed Episcopal Church

Ms. Sandra Esner

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey A. Fetzko

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Glicklich

Ms. Josephine J. Gumina

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Harrison

D. Hayes

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory P. Hayes

Mr. Alex Holt

The Kelly Services, Inc. Foundation

Larken Associates

J. Maguire

Mr. and Mrs. Scott C. Mann

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Manuelli

Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Krogly

Ortho McNeil Pharmaceutical

Mr. Anthony Panzera

Mr. George Poltorak

Mr. and Mrs. George Quinn

Ms. Judy Ragona

Ms. Patrice Regan Schreiber

Mr. and Mrs. David Robinson

R. Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sosis

UNUM Life Insurance Company of America

Ms. Lori Whidden

$100.00 & OVER

Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Albers

Mr. Keith Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Barr

R. Barry

Mr. Raymond H. Bateman

Mr. Robert D. Benton

Mr. Wilson Bethard

Mr. Scott Borup

Mr. Lance B. Boxer

Ms. Judy Boyd

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Brennan

Bridgewater United Methodist Church

Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Bryant

Mr. James R. Bunce

Mr. Peter Calderone

Ms. Helen Cantlay

D. Carrol

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen V. Chandler

S. Chou

Christ Presbyterian Church

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Christian

Christian Fellowship Club of Concordia, Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cocivera

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Coletti

Mr. William Conniff

Mr. Carlo Corsino

Mr. and Mrs. John N. Costanzo

Ms. Lynn Davies

Mr. and Mrs. William L. DeVries

Dr. Tom Divilio

David Dreman Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Essex

Ms. Denise Fabiano

Mr. Stuart Faden

Mr. Raymond Fantuzzi, Sr.

Mr. Michael Forrestall

Ms. Catherine M. Foulk

Ms. Kaytna Gallego

Ms. Bonita A. Giedrycz

Good Shepard Lutheran Church

Mr. and Mrs. William Hawkins

Mr. and Mrs. Gates Helms Hawn

Ms. Jennifer Hayes

Mr. Fred Howlett and Ms. Robin Malin

Mr. Drew M. Hurley

B. Johnson

Mr. Kristijan Kahler

Ms. Beth E. Karp

Mr. Eugene L. Kilik

Ms. Virginia D. Kraeutler
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Kreutzer
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Lang
Mr. Ralph S. Larsen
Henry S. Lehr, Inc.
Ms. Helaine Lobman
Ms. Judy Lynch
Mr. Stan Major
Ms. Janet Marietti
Mitsubishi Electric America, Inc
Ms. Patricia Molino
Ms. Kathleen Murphy
Ms. Maureen Noll
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Nordstrom
Mr. Raymond O'Byrne
Ms. Kathleen O'Connor
Ms. Margaret Osmane
Mr. Christopher Parios
Phi Delta Kappa, Inc
Epsilon Alpha Chapter
Mr. Dick Picot
The Printing Outlet
Mr. and Mrs. Amos Pyles
Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Rhymer
Ms. Sheri Richards and
Mr. Stephen Therianos
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Richards
Mr. and Mrs. William Rose
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rosenzweig
Ms. Linda Ruetsch-Neri
Ms. Marianne Rurka
Ms. Susan Ruth
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schachter
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic C. Schilling
Mr. Morris Schwartz
E. Shores
Ms. Madeline Sica
Ms. Suzanne Siverio
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Sosis
St. John's Episcopal Church
Mr. Gary Survil
Mr. and Mrs. Chester D. Szymanski
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Taylor
Ms. Grace Terry
Ms. Pamela Tisza
Ms. Jacqueline Torossian
Ms. Joan Trainor
Mr. Carl Tyree
United Methodist Church
Mr. Ken Vanacoro
Ms. Nancy Vas Korlis
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Von Horn
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Warren
Ms. Angela Weidner
Ms. Eleanor Wise
Mr. O. Stanley Woolson
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yates

Year in Review

This has been an exciting year for all of us at Somerset Home. The passage of the New Jersey Homeless Youth Act and the completion of our crisis shelter renovation project mark two significant milestones in our 30-year history.

In a major step forward in the area of services to homeless youth, the State of New Jersey, under the leadership of Governor Christie Whitman, became the 21st state to adopt a runaway and homeless youth policy. Modeled after the federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the New Jersey Homeless Youth Act was approved and signed into law in the fall of 1999. This new law gives youth the "right" to access shelters (basic centers) without a court order and allocates funding for shelters (basic centers), transitional living programs and street outreach programs. The New Jersey Homeless Youth Act enables Somerset Home to work more intensely with youth in crisis and with older youth, assisting them as they make the transition to independence and adulthood.

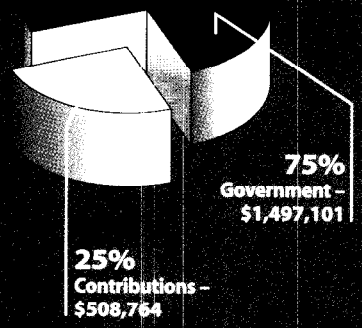
Also last fall, we dedicated our newly (finally) finished, five-year facility improvement project for our crisis shelter, the Somerset Youth Shelter. New counseling offices, library, dining room and fire sprinkler systems are just the beginning. In addition, by annexing adjacent property, we have added expanded parking, a volleyball court, a picnic area and a basketball court. The old building never looked better and it has made a significant difference in the quality of services provided to our youth.

We encourage you to tour our program sites and learn more about the very exciting activities currently under way and being planned for the future. I would also encourage you to visit our website (somersethome.org), where you can find much more detailed information about Somerset Home.

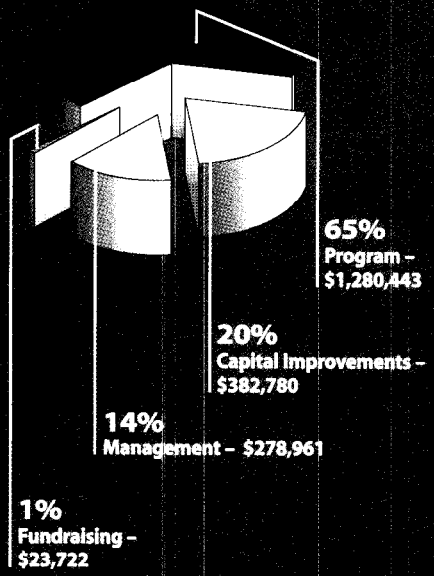
And remember, it is thanks to you and your support that we are able to provide these services.

Thank you.

Revenue – $2,005,865



Expenses – $1,965,906



Figures above reported on a cash basis.

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

Donna M. Manuelli

Donna Manuelli
President, Board of Trustees



Jeffrey Fetzko, ACSW, LSW, CFRE
Executive Director



It is the mission

of the Somerset Home

to provide a variety

of community services

to respond to the needs

of at-risk youth.

Board of Trustees

Donna Manuelli, *President*
NJ TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

Lisa Warren, *Vice President*
JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Ray Fantuzzi, *Vice President*
KEYSTONE COMMUNITY RESIDENCE

Rich D'Addabbo, *Treasurer*
NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION

Bob Caruso, *Asst. Treasurer*
PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG FREE AMERICA

E. Carolyn Zachary, *Secretary*
PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT

Barbara Ciamporcero
BOARD MEMBER

David Robinson
AT&T

Sheri Richards
JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Marsha Montgomery
PACESETTER GROUP

Fred Howlett
CHAIR, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Marge Yates
EMERITUS

Management Team Members

Jeffrey Fetzko, ACSW, LSW, CFRE
Executive Director

Anne Bradley-Sosis, MA
Associate Executive Director

Stacy Essex, MSW, LCSW
Shelter Program Director

Bridget Stump, MSW
Pathways/Passages Program Director

Barbara Kreutzer
Manager, Administrative Services

Member:
Somerset County United Way
United Way of Plainfield, North Plainfield, Fanwood, and Scotch Plains

Somerset Home is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation that welcomes tax-deductible contribution of funds and gifts in-kind.

Information filed with the State of New Jersey concerning this charitable organization may be obtained from the Attorney General by calling (973) 504-6215. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Out of concern for their privacy and precarious personal situations, we do not show the faces of Somerset Home's adolescents in this publication.

Somerset Home For Temporarily Displaced Children

Website: www.somersethome.org
E-mail: mail@somersethome.org

49 Brahma Avenue
Post Office Box 6871
Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0871

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bridgewater, NJ
PERMIT No. 246