Something Special • Valuing Youth • Empowering Youth • Strengthening Families • Promoting Health • Supporting Diversity • Community • Networking • Partnerships • Quality • Staff • Clients • Something Special • Valuing Youth • Empowering Youth • Strengthening Families • Promoting Health • Supporting Diversity • Community • Networking • Partnerships • Quality • Staff • Clients • Something Special • Valuing Youth • Empowering Youth • Strengthening Families • Promoting Health • Supporting Diversity • Community • Networking • Partnerships • Quality • Staff • Clients • Something Special • Valuing Youth • Empowering Youth • Strengthening Families • Promoting Health • Supporting Diversity • Community • Networking • Partnerships • Quality • Staff • Clients • Something Special • Valuing Youth • Empowering Youth • Strengthening Families • Promoting Health • Supporting Diversity • Community • Networking • Partnerships • Quality • Staff • Clients • Something Special • Valuing Youth • Empowering Youth • Strengthening Families • Promoting Health • Supporting Diversity • Community • Networking • Partnerships • Quality

# Our Guiding Principles

1. Staff Is Important

2. Clients Are Important

3. Part of Something Special

4. Valuing Youth

5. Empowering Youth

6. Strengthening Families

7. Promoting Healthy Alternatives

8. Supporting Diversity

9. Encouraging Community-Based Services

10. Networking

11. Youth/Adult Partnerships

12. Quality of Service

13. Sound Managerial Practices

14. Board Is Important



# Our Year in Review

***Our mission is to provide options for runaway and homeless youth and their families.***

*On the cover of this report, you will see words you may think have special meaning. And they do. They are the key elements of our guiding principles. They are woven throughout the content of this annual report and represent the threads that make up the fabric of Somerset Home.*

*Our guiding principles reflect on the importance and value of youth and their families, staff, board of trustees, volunteers and all of Somerset Home's stakeholders. We believe youth should be empowered, families strengthened and healthy alternatives explored as a result of having been involved with our agency.*

*We encourage diversity and value networking with government and other agencies. We encourage the development of community-based services to meet the needs of the youth and their families and believe youth/adult partnerships are the foundation for achieving these goals.*

*We also believe the agency should operate under sound managerial practices and strive for the highest quality of services as evidenced by our continuous quality improvement program and the accreditation and licensing of our programs.*

*Nurturing these beliefs has resulted in another year of successes at Somerset Home, which we share with you in this report.*

*Thank you for the privilege of serving as leaders of this unique organization. We are truly grateful for your continuous and generous support. Please know you are part of our work each day as every adolescent who passes through our doors is assisted on his or her journey to a lifetime of love, happiness and fulfillment.*

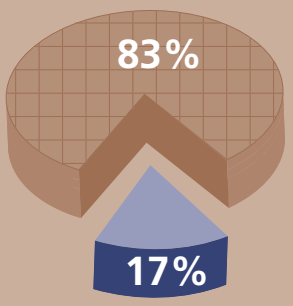
***Donna Manuelli,*** *President, Board of Trustees*

***Jeffrey Fetzko,*** *Executive Director*

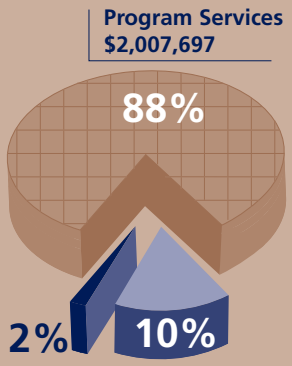
# Financials

## Revenue by Sources

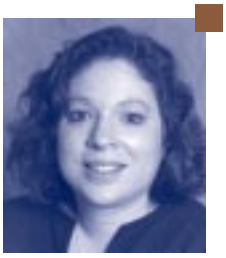
**Total: $2,306,289**




## Expense by Category




**Total: $2,279,682**



Donna Manuelli
*President,*
*Board of Trustees*



Jeffrey Fetzko
*ACSW, LSW, CFRE*
*Executive Director*

# Somerset Youth Shelter and Street S.M.A.R.T. (street outreach) Programs

The ***Somerset Youth Shelter*** is a short-term crisis intervention program which serves adolescents, 13 - 18 years of age, who have been abused, neglected, or are not able to live at home because of family conflict. While at the shelter, each adolescent receives food, clothing, counseling, HIV/AIDS prevention education and basic- and life-skills education. The program's outcome goal is to reunite each youth with his or her family.



The ***Street S.M.A.R.T.*** (Somerset Mobile Adolescent/Adult Resource Team) program provides youth with food, clothing and blankets while on the streets and provides easy access to the Somerset Youth Shelter program to get them off the street and into a safe environment. Program services are targeted to youth who are living in unsafe environments, are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.



Youth Shelter Statistics

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Clients | 129 |
| Average Length of Service | 34 days |

Primary Reason for Placement/Participation

| | |
|---|---|
| Abuse | 11 (9%) |
| Family Crisis | 88 (68%) |
| Homelessness | 12 (9%) |
| Involvement with Juvenile Justice System | 3 (2%) |
| Neglect | 15 (12%) |

# One LIFE at a Time

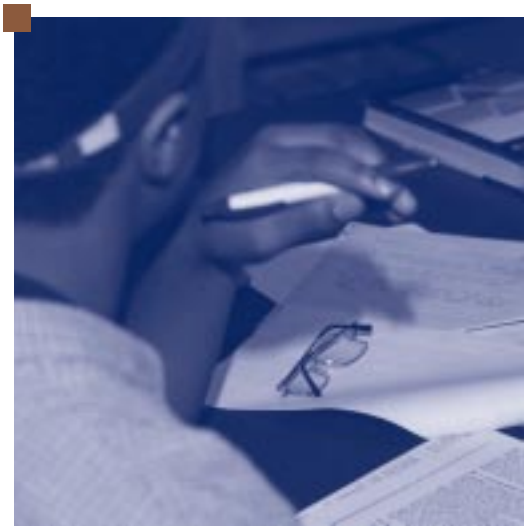
Street S.M.A.R.T Statistics

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Clients | 40 |
| Average Length of Service | 19 days |

Primary Reason for Placement/Participation

| | |
|---|---|
| Abuse | 4 (10%) |
| Aged-Out of Foster Care System | 4 (10%) |
| Family Crisis | 13 (32%) |
| Homelessness | 10 (25%) |
| Neglect | 9 (23%) |





*When I was a child, I lived with my Mom…we spent a lot of time in the car, just the two of us. I loved my Mom very much. While I was growing up, I was being sexually abused, and when my Mom found out, she reported it to the police. They were going to take me away from my Mom and she was really upset. My Mom wasn't a very stable person, but she did love me with all her heart and the last thing she wanted was to lose me. The same day, she told me to go to my friend's house, and she would come home later…she was still upset and it hurt her to say good-bye. When she hugged me it seemed like she never wanted to let me go. That day, she committed suicide, jumping off a bridge. My aunt then took me to live with her. I lived there for five years. I grew close to her children. They are like my brothers and sisters. Even so, things didn't work out living there. That was when I was placed in the Somerset Youth Shelter. I've been here for seven months now, Christmas just passed. To be honest, this shelter has had the biggest effect in my life. Just from living here, I've learned how to cope with my feelings. I have come a long way and I feel like my whole life changed in one day. I value everything I have now because I have lost people I love, and yet I have gained what some people will never have a chance to experience, self-respect. I love and respect myself…and I know what life is all about. I'm leaving the shelter soon to live in a group home. I'm sad about leaving, but glad to be moving to a place where I can stay for a while.*

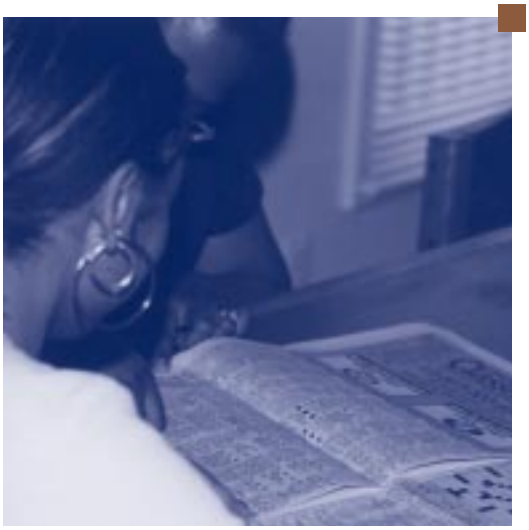
*M.C., age 16*

# Pathways Independent Living-Skills Education Program

The ***Pathways Independent Living-Skills Education program*** is non-residential and provides adolescents with life-skills training, 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 surrounding community, or are in need of independent living-skills education. These youth must be 15 to 21 years of age.




In order to address the specific needs of youth living in foster care in Somerset County, Pathways offers support services that include: weekly independent living-skills workshops, a computer lab and weekend retreats. Independent living-skills counselors provide a unique service by providing support to youth in the home, and at every step along the way to ensure a successful move out of foster care. The services focus on the youth's long-term goal of making a healthy transition to adulthood.



Pathways Statistics

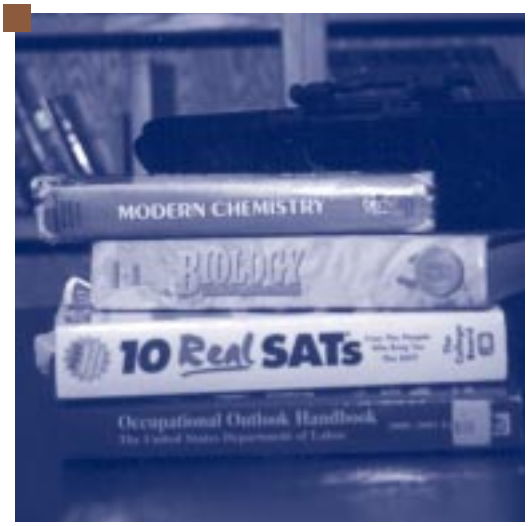
| | |
|---|---|
| Total Clients | 250 |
| Average Length of Service | 6 months |

Primary Reason for Placement/Participation

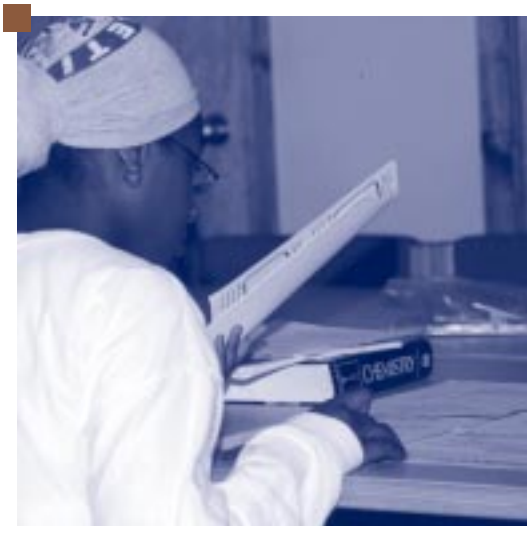
| | |
|---|---|
| Family Crisis | 10 (4%) |
| Homelessness | 10 (4%) |
| Involvement with Juvenile Justice System | 2 (1%) |
| Lack of Independent Living-Skills | 228 (91%) |

# One LIFE at a Time

*Ricky ran the streets. He did not have a job, never finished school, and the only clothing he owned were the clothes on his back. Ricky's family has been split apart by recurring drug abuse issues and so he lives day-to-day in different households. Ricky first came to the Passages program to see his friend. He began spending time with the residents and got to know the staff. Soon Ricky was attending the weekly Pathways independent living-skills program and receiving employment training.*




*Ricky began to work closely with the Pathways independent living-skills educators, who helped him pursue a General Educational Development (GED) credential and employment. They also helped him get funding to buy clothes. He even attended one of the Pathways weekend independent living-skills conferences. There, he was able to participate in team building and self-esteem-building activities, as well as learning relaxation techniques and stress relieving strategies.*



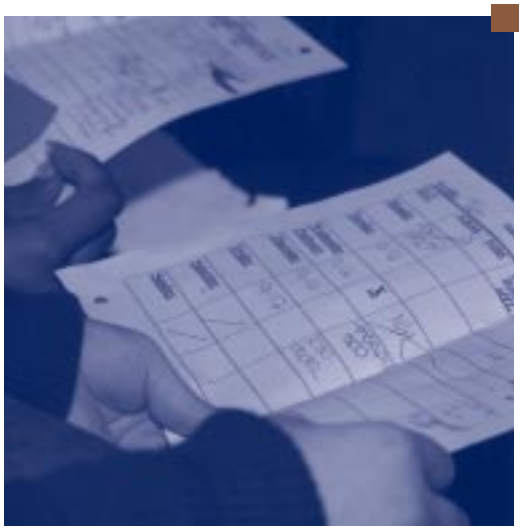
*Ricky has been able to open up to the independent living-skills educator and talk about his past and his dreams for the future. He currently attends GED classes in the morning and works afternoons and evenings at an electronics store in the computer department. He has opened up a savings account with the help of his independent living-skills educator and has been saving money so he can live in his own apartment. After Ricky obtains his GED, he would like to attend DeVry Institute and receive his bachelor's degree in computers.*

# Passages Transitional Living Program

***Passages Transitional Living Program*** is a residential program for young men and women, ages 16 to 21, who are unable to live at home due to abuse, neglect, homelessness or family conflict. While at Passages, youth attend school, are employed, and begin to save money, striving to learn the skills necessary to live independently in the community after leaving the program.

After a stay of up to 18 months, graduates receive outreach services and support to enable them to continue meeting their goal of living a satisfying, productive and independent life.





Passages Statistics

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Clients | 23 |
| Average Length of Service | 7 months |

Primary Reason for Placement/Participation

| | |
|---|---|
| Family Crisis | 10 (43%) |
| Homelessness | 11 (48%) |
| Involvement with Juvenile Justice System | 2 (9%) |

# One LIFE at a Time

*When Steve was a child, he and his brother were taken away from their biological mother, who was using drugs and neglecting the boys. Steve was placed in several foster homes. At one point, his foster mother's health was deteriorating and she lacked the patience to care for a teenager. That's when Steve was placed at the Somerset Youth Shelter. He was an exemplary resident during his four-month stay, after which he moved to a group home. When he successfully completed that program, he was accepted into the Passages transitional living program, two days before his 17th birthday.*



*While at Passages, Steve attended a National Youth Conference in Washington, D.C. Afterward, Steve became active in the Central Jersey Youth Advisory board, which works to improve the foster care system. He was instrumental in the creation of a constitution for the Statewide Youth Council. On the recommendation of his independent living-skills educator, he went to the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) Foster Youth Council meeting in Washington, D.C., where he was elected to the board of directors for the CWLA as a youth member.*



*Steve is a dedicated student at New Brunswick Health Sciences Technology high school and is planning to graduate in June. He is currently applying to colleges with hopes of becoming a writer. He is already working for a local newspaper in his spare time.*

*Steve is truly appreciative of the support he has received in the Passages program. "Passages has helped me in so many ways, from reducing stress to finding a tutor for help with math and chemistry. I also got involved in national and state organizations that I would not have known about or would not have had the confidence to join without the encouragement of the staff."*

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Princeton Area Community Foundation/
New Jersey AIDS Partnership
New Jersey Department of Education
New Jersey Department of Human Services
New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services
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SOMERSET HOME FOR TEMPORARILY DISPLACED CHILDREN

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