SOMERSET HOME FOR TEMPORARILY DISPLACED CHILDREN





COMMEMORATING OUR 30TH YEAR

Then

Mission Statement–1973

To provide for the housing, feeding and maintenance of displaced, abandoned and homeless children.

Now

Mission Statement–2003

To provide abused, neglected and homeless youth with housing, a stable environment and supportive services that equip them to become contributing members of society.

Significant Milestones

1973 Somerset Youth Shelter, 12 bed program for homeless youth, opens

1978 Somerset Youth Shelter relocates and expands to 16 beds

1983 Transitional Learning Center (TLC), an in-house education program, begins

1986 Pathways Life-Skills Education Program begins

1988 Passages Transitional Living Program opens for five young women

1992 Passages (TLP) relocates to new facility and expands to co-ed 10-bed program

1998 Street S.M.A.R.T. Street Outreach Program begins

2004 My Place Transitional Living Program to open for five homeless young adults

Our Year in Review



Phyllis Burton
President,
Board of Trustees
1973-1975



Walter Howard,
1st Executive Director
1973-1976

To my amazement, the phone did not ring once today! Could it be because there are no kids out there who need us? No. That can't be. It's Monday, November 26, 1973. I was recently hired by Walter Howard, Somerset Youth Shelter director, to work at the first privately operated shelter in New Jersey, the Somerset Youth Shelter. Today is the first day. All is quiet. We know they are out there and they will come.

As we knew would be the case, the phone was not silent for long. By the fifth day, there were three children. By the seventh day there were 12. We were filled to capacity. It has remained that way nearly every day since.

I distinctly remember that first year, thinking this was an exciting, emotionally charged place to work with kids coming and going all the time. But, we were really helping them through a tough period in their young and turbulent lives. I knew even in all this turmoil and sadness, it was a good thing that was happening here.

The kids, staff, board of trustees and community make this agency possible. I feel privileged, indeed, to be a part of this effort that has helped so many.

We commemorated our 30-year anniversary in 2003. On the next few pages, you're going to read about what it was like "then" and what it is like "now." You will see that the mission statement has been updated, the number of kids served each year has increased, and, even more noteworthy, the agency has grown from one program and one building to five programs and three buildings.

Even with all that growth, two things have definitely remained the same since the beginning; the phone continues to ring, and we really do help kids through tough periods in their young and often tragic lives.

Thank you for your support through all the ups and downs. I look forward to the future.
In the words of Emily Dickinson, "If I can ease one life the aching...I shall not live in vain."



Donna Manuelli
President,
Board of Trustees
1999-2004



Jeffrey Fetzko
ACSW, LSW, CFRE
Executive Director

Then

Somerset Youth Shelter Program



Urgent Need for Somerset Youth Shelter

April 11, 1971



State's First Shelter for Children Set Here

May 10, 1973



Children's Shelter Seeking 'Parents'

August 15, 1974

Now

Somerset Youth Shelter Program

Youth shelter renovations enhance lives of residents

November 5, 1999





Somerset Gets Street Smart

October 11, 2001

Bridgewater shelter steps in when no one else can

March 28, 2004



Then

Programs
Somerset Youth Shelter

Length of Stay
30 days

Referral Sources
State and county social service agencies

Reason for Placement
Interfamilial conflict, disorganization, hardship

Age
Up to 18

Area Served
Somerset and Hunterdon counties

Staffing
Houseparents and staff members

Where Clients Go
Home, relatives home, friend's home, foster home

How Many Clients Served Annually
97

Journal Entries

My mother just came here and said she didn't want me and now I'm hurting pretty bad–so I guess I'll be staying here for awhile. It's not that bad–but I'm freaking out some–it's kinda sad ya know–that all this ____gots to happen. I'm hurting really bad. I don't know what to feel or think–my mind is just a blank. I'm going to miss my mother. —Unknown

I'm supposed to leave tomorrow and stay with my sister for a few weeks. But Sunday I went to see my parents and my mother said if I went to stay at my sister's house, I'm not her daughter anymore. I tried to call my caseworker yesterday and today, but she's been on vacation. I don't know what's gonna happen now. My father says Dr. M. is gonna sign my mother away pretty soon. Then I might be able to go home. Actually, if my mother gets put away, my father could make an appeal to the judge to take me back. He needs me. Once my mother is gone, I'd have to take over. That house needs the kind of thing a mother can do for it. I can and have been more of a mother to that family than my mother has. I love her but she just can't function normally. Well, wish me luck! —Caper

Well it's me again, the world's greatest complainer. . . I was really gonna go back home and try to live with my parents but after talking to them yesterday, I found out that they really don't want me. You know what that does to your ego! —Darlene

Now

Programs
Somerset Youth Shelter
Passages Transitional Living program
Pathways Independent Living program
Street S.M.A.R.T. street outreach
TLC school-based services

Length of Stay
30 days

Referral Sources
State and county social service agencies, any agency or concerned individual, including self-referral

Reason for Placement
Family crisis, abuse, neglect, homelessness, need for support services, lack of independent living skills

Age
13-21

Area Served
All of New Jersey and beyond

Staffing
24-hour awake staff in three shifts

Where Clients Go
37% Home

33% Stable long-term living situation (i.e. foster home, group home, independent living program)

26% Stable short-term living situation (i.e. assessment center, other shelter)

3% On the run, correctional facility

1% College

How Many Clients Served Annually
543

Satisfaction Surveys

"I have decided to go to school so I don't have to come back, and I've learned to appreciate what I have cuz a lot of kids have much less." —Anonymous

"I have learned so many things here like respect, responsibility, things like that." —Anonymous

"I'm really sure you guys helped in every possible way. I don't know how to thank you guys." —Anonymous

"There's no point that staff has not been helpful. I've had some bad days with staff but everything is OK. They did all that they can to help us. They do a very good job. Sometimes I don't like the rules." —Anonymous

"They gave me a place to stay and fed me good and they help me learn new things by having a library." —Anonymous

"It taught me how to cope with my problems another way besides violence. Just keep doing the things you are doing, like helping kids stay on their feet." —Anonymous

Pathways and Passages Program

Now



'Pathways' to help teens learn life skills

October 11, 1984



Pathways expands to serve youth in foster care

August 2, 2003

Passages proposing home for troubled teenage girls

October 30, 1986



Passages program has new home to help troubled teens

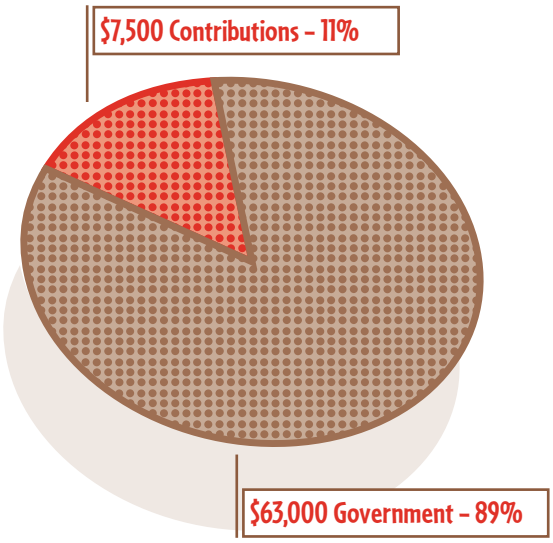
September 25, 1992



Financials

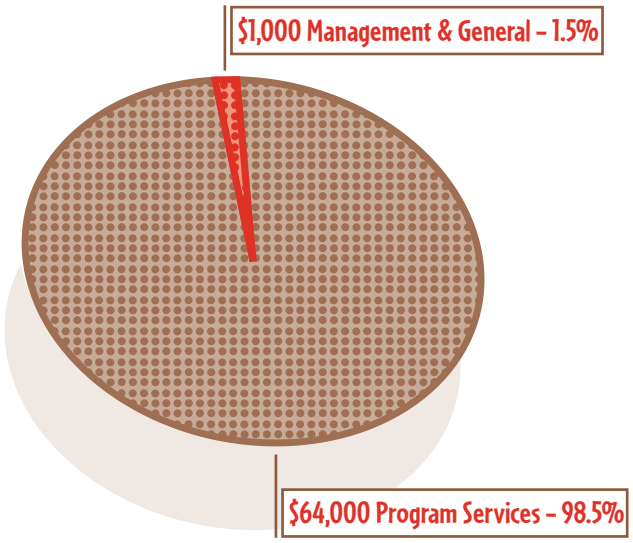
Then

Revenues by Source



Total Revenues: $70,500

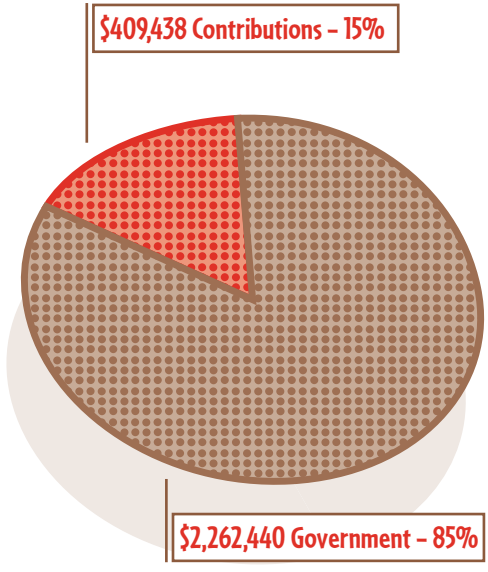
Expenses by Category



Total Expenses: $65,000

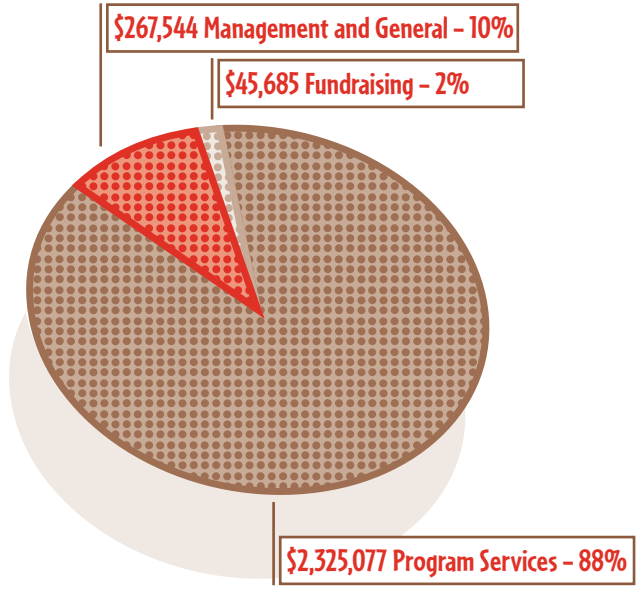
Now

Revenues by Source



Total Revenues: $2,671,878

Expenses by Category



Total Expenses: $2,638,306

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SOMERSET HOME FOR TEMPORARILY DISPLACED CHILDREN

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