



MOTHERS TRUST
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

MARCH 2007

Mission Statement

The Mothers Trust Foundation is a nonprofit (501(c)(3)) organization supporting social service providers by offering assistance to children in need in Lake County, Illinois. We make benefits and opportunities available which cannot be obtained from other sources. Our goal is to assist children in trouble or crises, raise awareness of children's needs, link needs with community resources and provide opportunities for volunteers to be involved.



MOTHERS TRUST
FOUNDATION

THE MOTHERS TRUST FOUNDATION

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Service Manager

Terry Ann Nissly

The Mothers Trust Foundation

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United Way
of Lake County

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Introduction

Children are at the heart of our hopes for the future. We should care what happens to them because they will affect the future for all of us.

In Lake County today, increasing numbers of children live below the poverty line, where ordinary problems; such as illness, job loss, or accidents can devastate even the most stable families. Yet even when their caretakers are unstable, unemployed, uneducated, disabled or subject to depression or addictions there are services available that can give children opportunities and hope. Can, that is, if they have the money.

Social workers in schools, the courts and social agencies which work with children can identify those who would benefit from emergency assistance. Unfortunately the social service system lacks the resources to meet many individual needs. Social agencies are under contract to funders to provide specific services; discretionary money is generally not available. It is the goal of the Mothers Trust Foundation to provide those benefits to children who are in crises or difficulty, and to do it one child at a time.

To accomplish this goal the Mothers Trust Foundation, a (501©(3)) public charity, was founded in 1998. It cooperates with public and private social agencies and school social workers throughout Lake County. It depends on the assistance of volunteers in both operations and fund raising, thus developing a community base for both income and service. Over the years the major source of support for MTF has been the annual benefit, The Betty Bash, which has produced 40% and more of direct grants to help children. Support has also come from the United Way of Lake County, local foundations, corporations, churches, community organization and individuals. In the eight years since it was founded, the Mothers Trust Foundation has provided direct grants benefiting 6,498 children and youth totaling approximately \$640,000.

The Service Story – How It Works

A Lake County social worker identifies a child who has a critical need for clothing, transportation, counseling, or emergency medical assistance, and help from the school, state or other providers is not available. In such situations the Mothers Trust is there to help. MTF Service Request forms are readily available or are already in the hands of many social service providers in Lake County. Faxed requests require justifying background information. They are evaluated every Wednesday morning by a Service Committee of staff and volunteers. Once approved, a check or voucher is sent to the organization which will

Making a Difference... One Child at a Time!

"We have always had positive outcomes leading to on time graduation, meeting basic needs, and moving clients forward."

"Outcome was great! Youth was able to participate in extra curriculars skill building and self-esteem, could see youth in overall mental health treatment."

"Children were able to attend summer camp programs which got them off the streets, out of their neighborhoods, and into a positive social environment! Also allowed students to fit in by being able to participate in their classroom activities (field trips)."

All quotations are voluntary responses to an agency follow-up questionnaire.

Making a Difference. . . One Child at a Time!

"One was able to go back and forth to 1st full time job, rental assistance provided enough to help family transition to more affordable housing."

"Your foundation continues to fill a void in the social service field to provide children/families with some 'hope' for items beyond the usual scope."

"One family got help paying a gas bill, which allowed her to buy food for her son. Another family got general help a couple of times to help them survive."

"To the best of our Agency's and your Agency's power we have met the basic material needs of PAD's (homeless) children."

"The minor was able to go on a 'journey' trip to promote sobriety. He's still sober. . . four months later."

provide the needed service, not to the family or client. We respond to needs promptly, immediately in extreme emergencies, such as a need for transportation when a young person is abandoned or to enable a family to escape from an abuser, or when medical needs are immediate and other sources of help involve delay.

Approval of a request is based upon the following criteria:

- The referral must come from a qualified professional social worker.
- The need is time limited, not continuous.
- The help requested will provide an identifiable benefit.
- Financial support is not available from another source.
- The beneficiary lives in Lake County, Illinois, and is between birth and 21.

Partial assistance from MTF is often used to leverage funds from others. In such circumstances churches, relatives, and even social agencies with limited funds can also help. Because of our collaboration with service providers throughout the county we have a unique understanding of where other help might be sought.

In 2006 the COLLEEN DAY MEMORIAL FUND was established to provide camp and camp-like activities for children who lack social and other skills, would be idle or unsupervised while parents work or need structured activities and positive adult relationships to help them adjust and do well in school. Colleen Day was one of the original Friends of the Mothers Trust. Camp is a major category of grants provided by the Mothers Trust Foundation. (See Service Data on page 4).

In 2006 we provided 1168 children with assistance at a total cost of \$121,000. Benefits ranged from \$15 birth certificates and \$20 athletic shoes for children who are homeless to \$450 for supplies to enable a youth to take advantage of vocational education opportunities. Occasionally we call on our Angel Network of generous individuals to assist with critical needs that are beyond our means. We collaborated with social workers in 87 schools and agencies to help children living in 42 communities all over Lake County. Although we often consult with social workers on possible solutions to individual and family problems we do not include such services in our unduplicated client counts.

Money Makes It Happen

The year 2005 was a difficult one for nonprofits everywhere. Mothers Trust Foundation ended 2005 with about \$25,000 less in reserves than we had had in previous years, with which to fund grant requests in 2006. In response we reduced grants to children in some categories and limited the amounts we would provide in several others. We also expanded efforts to raise money, extending the Garage Sale and the Back Yard Bandstand and general underwriting efforts. The annual benefit in December raised 30% more than in the previous year, due largely to increases in underwriting. As a result of these twin efforts in 2006 the cost of grants was down by 13% and general revenues were up by 32%.

The cost of administration, always low, increased 4% in 2006 reflecting increases in the cost of supplies, insurance, wages and rent but remained a low 10% of total expenses. The Mothers Trust Foundation employed two part-time employees in 2006. Expected growth in the coming year will require increases in income and changes in staff to retain maximum efficiency in the delivery of services.

Keeping Track

How does anyone know that what they do is helping? One way is to ask. We conduct an annual survey of social workers who have referred clients to us more than once during the year. In November 2006 we mailed 108 surveys and received 62 completed surveys in return. Respondents were asked to rate MTF on a scale of 1 to 5 regarding the benefits to clients and the ease of working with MTF. Results were as follows:

1 (very unsatisfactory) to 5 (very satisfactory)

	1	2	3	4	5
Benefit to client				5%	95%
Ease of working with Mothers Trust				10%	90%

Respondents were also given the opportunity to add additional information regarding MTF. Their responses to the question “What was the outcome for your clients” were overwhelmingly positive. These responses appear in sidebars on each page of this report.

Awards from social agencies and the many unsolicited thank you letters we receive from grateful social workers, parents and children are further evidence of our effectiveness. A file of such letters is available in our offices. In 2006 MTF was presented with an award in recognition of our “valuable and devoted service to Lake County” by the Lake County Health Department. The 2006/2007 Lake County LAN cited the “Mothers Trust in recognition for their generosity and support of Lake County residents.” As further evidence that the benefits we intend are actually received, we request receipts for payments made to schools, Kmart, landlords etc. to complete the case record.

Conclusion

The MTF is at a crucial point in its development. Facing increased demand for its services, in 2006 we reorganized the Friends of the Mothers Trust, expanded sources of support, and strengthened the Board of Directors, as projected in the 2005-2008 strategic plan (available on request). It is anticipated that 2007 will be a water-shed year, with staff changes, expanded contacts with schools in rapidly growing areas of Lake County, further growth in the Board of Directors and advancement of the long term financial plan.

The Mothers Trust Foundation is seeking volunteers. We welcome visits to the Weekly Service Committee meeting, held Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. With inquiries or donations please call 847-482-9189 or contact the Mothers Trust Foundation at 400 East Illinois (Gorton Community Center), Lake Forest, IL 60045.

Making a Difference... One Child at a Time!

“Your system works to perfection on meeting the needs of families in crisis. They receive the help when they need it the most!!!! Thanks!!!”

“I am very satisfied with the expeditious manner in which you were able to help me help the families. Without MTF these families would have been evicted.... It is so rewarding to see someone not so afraid and knowing that there are still caring people out there.”

“I am not sure there is anything you could do better! Response time and follow-up are excellent and, actually, are better than I could do myself! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!”

“All the outcomes were very positive for those who received help from MTF.”

SERVICE SUMMARY – 2006

Youth Served by Category

Total Grant Expenditures

Housing Assistance	32%
Camp	22%
Education Assistance.....	14%
Transportation	9%
Incentives.....	8%
Clothing	7%
Day Care	4%
Other.....	4%

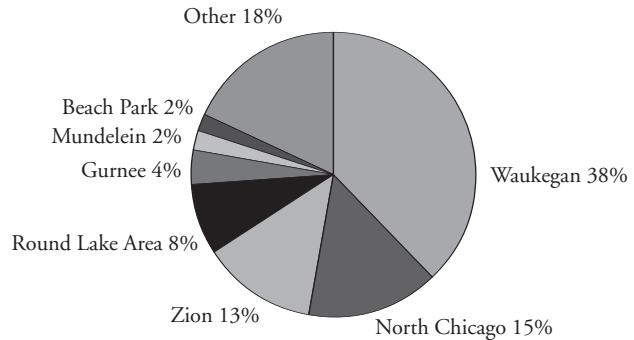
Total Grant Requests

Housing Assistance	25%
Education Assistance.....	18%
Clothing	14%
Camp	9%
Transportation	8%
Incentives.....	6%
Baby Gear.....	5%
Other.....	15%

Race

African American	653
Latino	208
Caucasian	266
Asian.....	1
Mixed	39
NA.....	1
Total	1,168

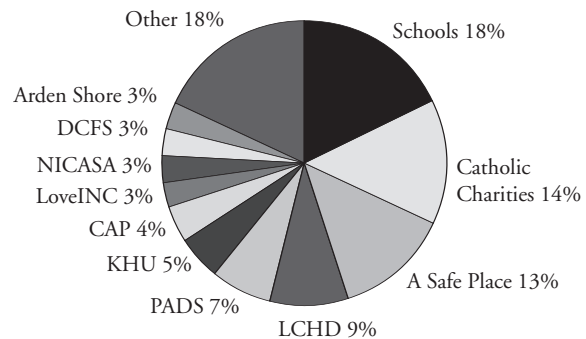
Community of Residence



Age

Under 5	300
5-18	857
Over 18.....	11

Referring Agency



MOTHERS TRUST FOUNDATION
Financial Report – 2006

REVENUES

Donations

Business Corporations/Foundations.....	26,850
Individuals.....	43,495
United Way.....	15,343
Government.....	6,700
Community Organizations.....	4,578
Churches.....	<u>9,650</u>

Total Donations.....106,616

Fundraising/Annual Benefit.....84,443

Other Revenues

Other Income.....	0
Investment Income.....	1,376
Friends Board Membership Dues.....	<u>2,150</u>

Total Other Revenues.....3,526

Total Revenues.....194,586

EXPENDITURES

Program Services/Grants

Auto.....	5,294
Baby Gear.....	585
Camp.....	21,436
Clothing.....	6,608
Counseling.....	1,050
Day Care.....	4,033
Education.....	13,383
Housing.....	31,841
Incentive Activities.....	7,565
Medical.....	1,080
Transportation.....	4,032
Other.....	<u>1,860</u>

Total Grants.....98,767

Program Support/Operations.....22,179

Administration.....16,543

Fundraising/Annual Benefit.....21,884

Total Expenditures.....159,373

TRANSFERRED TO CASH RESERVES.....-35,212

Note: Audited Financial Statements for 2005 prepared by Evoy, Kamschulte, Jacobs & Co. LLP are available upon request in the Mothers Trust Foundation office.

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 Judy Family Foundation
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