

10 YEARS
of CARING



MOTHERS TRUST
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

March 2008

Mission Statement

The Mothers Trust Foundation is a non-profit 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.

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THE MOTHERS TRUST FOUNDATION

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Barbara Monsor, *Executive Director*

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The Mothers Trust Foundation

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Looking Back, Moving Forward

Dear Friends,

In January 1998, it was hard to foresee that within 10 years, the Mothers Trust Foundation would become an established and widely depended upon source of emergency help for children and their families in Lake County. With only \$7,000 in our pockets, we went forward with optimism, knowing that we could make a difference in the lives of children.

At the start we received the support of a small group of young mothers who recognized that children are especially vulnerable to the crises of family life, and knew that seemingly little things can make a big difference. In those first months we focused on the basics, providing children with clothing, transportation, camp, medical emergencies and day care – challenges to children in poverty which remain on our list of grants today.

The Mothers Trust Foundation is unique in several ways. We realize that an unsolicited offer of help can appear demeaning or culturally inappropriate, even to families in the most desperate circumstances. We know that, for lasting change to occur, children must be willing to accept help. We know, too, that not all children appear to deserve help. Poorly socialized children who don't know how to behave appropriately can be rejected by both peers and adults; and they may be angry, depressed and negative. Adult reactions to such children can be negative too. It is easy for them to believe that help is wasted. All too often, children are punished for no greater sin than being poor.

Throughout our ten years we have striven to educate the broader community about the defeating experiences poor children face. We believe that even wounded and unprepared children can be flexible and able to overcome obstacles if they are given a little unquestioning assistance and encouragement when they need it. When barriers are down they can learn to make positive choices and gain confidence and optimism for the future. Through grants aimed at individual needs, we provide them with encouragement, showing them that we care.

Since our founding, Mothers Trust Foundation has helped more than 7,000 children in Lake County through grants totaling nearly \$800,000. In 2007, Mothers Trust Foundation provided 1,657 children with benefits, one child at a time.

Though our accomplishments are many, as described in the following pages, there is much to do to achieve our goal of providing emergency assistance to the children of Lake County. We are deeply grateful for the help provided us by our donors. Thank you for your support.

Barbara Monsor
Executive Director

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

“The help from Mothers Trust helped a working mother get through a tough financial time and helped her stay focused on following through with her education to get a better job. Outcomes for all these families are good.”

“Thank you so much for all you do. I just wish you could see the look on the faces of the people you help. It really does make a difference.”

“Clients were able to resolve their financial issues and they are trying to keep up with their responsibilities.”

“Provided significant relief for the students and families and enabled them to participate in activities they may not have been able to normally—tech campus, summer school, athletics, driver's ed., etc....”

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

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

“Our clients have been extremely appreciative of your assistance. The woman who received rental assistance started crying and jumping up and down, calling your agency an ‘Angel on Earth’.”

“All of my students were greatly helped. Most, depending on need, were helped 100%. All students greatly needed and appreciated the support.”

“The school families supported by your generous donations received hearing aids and insurance policies for hearing aids.”

“Improved gross motor skills for child with playground equipment, parent able to go to work with public transportation, school uniforms (which help kids fit in) were worn by students.”

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

2007 – A Year of Growth

In 2007, the Mothers Trust Foundation experienced steady growth on all fronts. We raised more money and helped more children in more communities than ever before. In 2007, Mothers Trust Foundation provided benefits to more than 1,650 children in Lake County – a 40 percent increase over 2006 at a total cost of approximately \$160,000. Growth in requests was matched by a growth in funds raised from individuals, corporate and family foundations, churches, townships, community organizations, and the United Way of Lake County.

As the reputation of Mothers Trust Foundation spread, our coverage of Lake County communities grew. We served youth from 37 Lake County communities in 2007, stretching from Lake Zurich and Volo to Highland Park and Winthrop Harbor. School social workers made the greatest number of referrals, followed by Catholic Charities, the Community Action Project, A Safe Place and PADS.

Most of the families and children we helped live in Waukegan (35%) and North Chicago (19%). Cases from other major communities we serve (Gurnee, Vernon Hills and the Round Lake area) increased in 2007. The number of homeless families assisted by Mothers Trust Foundation (298) increased over previous years, despite an overall decrease in Lake County families designated as homeless from 496 in 2006 to 440 in 2007.

Raising Awareness

Historically, it has been a major goal of the Mothers Trust Foundation to increase awareness of the plight of children living through a family crisis or in chronic poverty. To that end, Mothers Trust Foundation cosponsored a symposium with the Regional Office of Education and SEDOL (Special Education District of Lake County) in August, 2007. More than 30 agencies were invited to make presentations to a “sold out” audience of 160 school social workers. The goal was to educate school social workers about all the resources available to them, and to encourage more effective collaboration among service providers. The response from the symposium was overwhelmingly positive. A follow-up symposium in another part of Lake County is being planned for 2009.

In 2008 we plan to revisit our partners across Lake County, reaching out to new school staff and social workers. This work has already begun with visits to the Waukegan, North Chicago and Zion School District Offices, and to the Lake County Juvenile Detention Center and Mundelein area programs. While we have made a significant difference to thousands of children, we know there are pockets of Lake County that we have not reached. Additional visits are planned for township offices and school districts. Through an aggressive outreach program, we hope to engage more people in every community in Lake County.

In 2007, Mothers Trust Foundation’s founder Barbara Monsor and the Mothers Trust organization received honors for outstanding community service from the Lake Forest / Lake Bluff Volunteer Center and the Chicago Jefferson Award.

Improving Our Operations

Mothers Trust Foundation is proud that we have been able to keep our administrative costs at a low 10 percent. We made great strides in further improving our efficiency in 2007. To meet the growing need for our services, we hired another part-time office person, bringing our total number of staff to three. The Assistant Administrator created a list maintenance database tailored to our specific and complex needs. We updated our website and we will soon be able to receive donations online. In addition, thanks to a generous contributor, we upgraded our computers and software so that we can continue to function efficiently, better manage our recordkeeping, and eliminate reliance on outside sources for desktop publishing.

Measuring Ourselves

We believe in results. Each year we evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of our program. A client satisfaction survey is sent to social workers who are frequent users of our services. We ask whether the benefit we provided made a difference, if we were easy to work with, and what we can do to improve. Responses may be anonymous.

The Evaluation Survey in 2007 brought the largest and most enthusiastic response we have ever had. Surveys were sent to 109 social workers who had referred more than one client to Mothers Trust Foundation in 2007. We received 70 responses. All but two (97 %) responded that the service of Mothers Trust Foundation had been very satisfactory (5 on a scale of 1-5).

Celebrating 10 Years of Caring

In 2008, the Mothers Trust Foundation celebrates its 10th Anniversary. We have much to celebrate! Since our founding in 1998 we have provided nearly \$800,000 in grants benefiting over 7,000 children in Lake County.

In our 10 years, we have seen the positive effects of our actions.

- Relatives of six little girls who were victims of family violence and disintegration in 1998 watched proudly as the oldest child graduated from high school in 2007 and was enrolled in college.
- Students on scholarship who received money for books and fees moved closer to college graduation.
- Kids who once were involved in gangs and in danger of dropping out of school were provided with sports fees, encouraged to work for better grades, and graduated from high school.
- Boys living on their own and working fulltime after school have been able to attend Vocational Education classes to learn a trade. It has been reported that children provided with MTF grants to attend Vocational Education classes at the Lake County High Schools Technology Campus are less likely to drop out than those who are self supporting.

Successes like these encourage us to reach a little higher – to dig a little deeper. Please join us in celebrating our 10th anniversary at a variety of events in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff, culminating in our biggest annual fundraiser, the Betty Bash. Look for more information about upcoming events on our website, www.motherstrustfoundation.org

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

“Continue to do what you do!! Our students and staff would be at a loss without MTF support! No other agency that I’m aware of provides the type of charity that MTF does! Thank you!! Hope you stay in operation for many years to come!”

“My students were able to participate in regular activities at school. Some were able to have regular activities to participate in during the summer, helping them to stay out of trouble.”

“In one case it kept a client’s phone turned on while she was looking for a job—she got a job one week later. In another case, it helped a mom with two boys move after their house burned in a fire.”

“Protective day care assistance was provided. Bus tickets provided families with transportation to obtain needed services to strengthen families.”

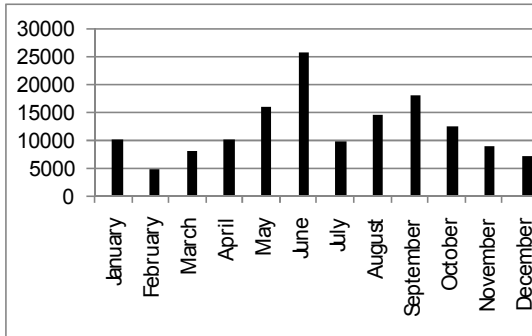
All quotations are voluntary responses to an agency follow-up questionnaire.

SERVICE SUMMARY—2007

Youth Served by Race

African American	939
Latino	348
Caucasian	284
Mixed	79
Asian	7
Total	1,657

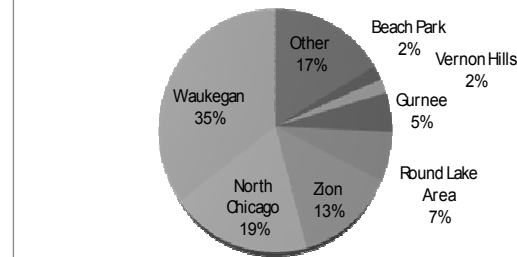
Monthly Grant Expenditures



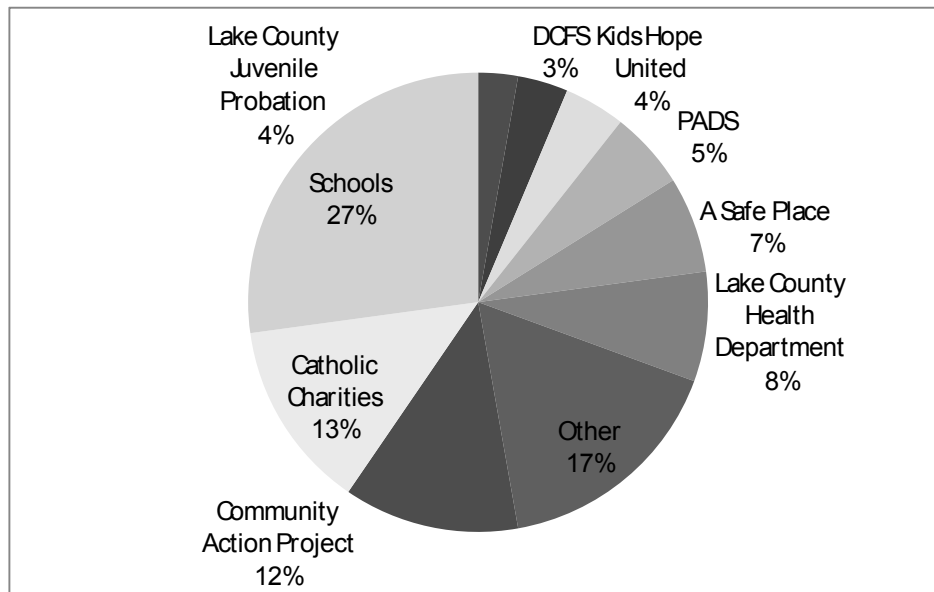
Youth Served by Age

Under 5	353
5-18	1,291
Over	13
Total	1,657

Community of Residence



Referring Agency



MOTHERS TRUST FOUNDATION
Financial Report - 2007

REVENUES

Donations			
Business Corporations/Foundations	76,179		
Individuals	34,654		
United Way	12,415		
Government	15,100		
Community Organizations	3,461		
Churches	11,450		
	Total Donations	153,259	
Fundraising/ Annual Benefit		106,137	
Other Revenues			
Other Income	0		
Investment Income	4,742		
Friends Board Membership Dues	1,450		
	Total Other Revenues	6,192	
Total Revenues			265,589

EXPENDITURES

Program Service/Grants			
Auto	2,415		
Baby Gear	945		
Camp	23,606		
Clothing	4,622		
Counseling	500		
Day Care	1,779		
Documents	927		
Education	33,323		
Housing	59,477		
Incentive Activities	8,994		
Medical	3,879		
Transportation	2,115		
Other	1,530		
	Total Grants	144,112	69.8%
Program Support/Operations		18,337	8.9%
Administration		21,491	10.4%
Fundraising/ Annual Benefit		22,492	10.9%
Total Expenditures		206,432	

TRANSFERRED TO CASH RESERVES -59,157

Note: audited financial statements for 2006 prepared by Evoy, Kamschulte, Jacobs & Co. LLP are available upon request in the Mothers Trust Foundation office.

2007 DONORS

\$5,000 and up

Baxter International
Garrett Family Foundation
Judy Family Foundation
Roy Keller
Lake Forest College
Shields Township
Trustmark Foundation
United Way of Lake County
Irene M. & Milton R. Weed
Foundation
Xerox Corporation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous (2)
Church Of The Holy Spirit
Gorter Family Foundation
Kevin P. Gorter Foundation
Dr. Joe Gordon
Libertyville Township - Betty
Ann Moore
Paul & Dona Litzinger
Presbyterian Women
Target
Union Church of Lake Bluff

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Barilla America
BayTree National Bank
Karen & Robert Bush
Follett Corporation
Ralph & Mary Gesualdo
Tara Kaeschier
Jeffrey & Toni Kordell
Libertyville Sunrise Rotary
Jonathan Monsor
Joseph P. Nicholas Foundation
John Parkinson & Marianne
Wood
Robert Reusche
Mrs. James D. Vail
Mark & Debra Vallortigara
Gregg & JoAnne Walla

\$500 - \$999

Artisan Guild of LF/LB
Jacquie Cherry
Theo & John Figliulo
Grainger
Harlow Foundation
Mark & Elizabeth Hazeltime
Dave & Cindi Hewitt
Houghton Mifflin
Lake Forest Knights Of
Columbus
Lincolnshire Morning Star
Rotary
Romalda Lopat
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Fund
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Barbara Monsor
Donna K. Mueller
Thomas & Kathleen Myers
Round Lake Area School
District
Rozdolsky Family Gift Fund
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\$250 - 499

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Sheila Fleck
Marianne Gaughan
Christine Goshgarian
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Carol & Stephen Newman
Sandra Noble
Donna Oldenburg
R. Pucin & Assoc.
Susanne Slaughter
Linda Smaligo
Laura Smith
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
Theodore Totman and Helene
Deramond
Emelie Ventling
Frederick & Jacqueline Wacker
Sue Wicks
Margaret & Richard Witt
Wm. Wrigley Jr. Foundation
Michael & Leslie Zuckerman

up to \$249

Russell & Ellen Alberding
Jeanne Alt
Alumnae of Delta Delta Delta
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Jordan Aron
Basil & Susan Athenson
Lynne Atherton
Jean Baker
Jill Barth
Lenora Bedore
Katie Begley
Ron & Beth Bernardi
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Beth Shadur Paintings
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Kathleen Blahunka
William Bogot
Suzanne Boren
Melinda Bourne
Jane Bradford
Brenda Brainerd
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Lora & Robert Bull
Denise & David Bunning
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Philip & Frances Calcutt
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Kitty Cole
Nancy Cooley
Kathryn Cordell
Virginia Cotherman
Monte L. Craig

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Karen Dailey
Kathleen Dasso
John & Lynn Day
Richard Day
Anne & James DeAcetis
Cheryl DePaul
Donald & Donna Dieball
Shirley Gleason Dillon
Diversified Food Sales System
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Margaret & Thomas Doetsch
Mary Dollinger
Sharon Doney
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Catherine Driscoll
Linda Dunn
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Jennifer Durot
Robert Durot
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Marijo & Robert Erzinger
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Carole Floate
Katherine Fluri
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Concie Fowler
Patricia Frain
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Cathy Keller
Linda Kennett
Barb Kerman
Deborah Kiddle
Sarah Yarger Kienzle
William & Cheryl Killam

Bivan & Leslie Kischer
Marcy Klein
Stephanie Konsler
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Judy Lazarus
Jill Leffelman
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Marianne Lombard-Koy
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Joan Lynch
Patricia Lynch
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Susan MacFarland
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Elaine & Peter Marshall
Liz Martin
Ellen Marwede
Linda Matthews
Florence Mauro
Maureen Maves
Marguerite McClintock
Chris McCoy
Naomi McEneely
Michael & Stephanie McGlynn
Patrick McGrath
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Phoebe McMillan
Jane Melarkey
Mark & Mary Menzel
Ariel Mieling
Sigute Mikrut
Millburn Gallery
David Miller
Pauline & Roger Mohr
David & Debra Moore
Debra C. Moore
Renato & Constance Mordini
Barbara Mortimer
Theresa Morton
Robin Mueller
Margaret Mullen
Barbara Munder
Devon Nelson
Donald & Marie Nemerov
Joyce Newcomb
Terry Ann Nissly
Kent & Nancy Novit
Steven & Una Ortell
Kurt & Margaret Pairitz
Valerie Papastefan
Allison Pasquesi
Theodore & Patricia Pasquesi
Randall & Janet Peters
Cheryl Pettit
Pineapple Designs
Cheryl Pliskin
Christopher & Susan Plummer
Janice Price
Janet Prochnow
Quatraluna
Diane Quon

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Marjorie & Marshall Reavis
Winifred Reidy
Heather & Timothy Richmond
Sandra Riggs
Donna Ritson
Elizabeth Rochford
Carol Rosenfeldt
Susi Rowe
Jane Rubin
Lois Ryan
Gregory & Denise Schlax
Rene Schuler
Patti Scribner
Julia Shackelford
Randi Shapiro
Carol & Rick Shapland
Liz & Jeff Sharp
Sally Sharp
Richard & Robin Sidell
Alan & Lynn Sidman
Margaret Siebert
Louis & Robyn Silver
Richard & Lauralee Sirus
Jeffrey & Diane Skaleski
Elaine Slayton
Karl & Nikki Snoblin
Henry & Judith Sohn
Mary Claire Sparrow
Gail Spiel
Mary G. Stickels
Julie Stride
Sumthin' Fun!
Reena Talwar
Diane Tang
TAP
Beth Teich
The Shopping Diva Ltd.
Bruce & Laura Thelen
Margo Thomas
Adrienne Thoms
Patrick & Heather Thornton
Kelly Thut
Linda & Brian Torcivia
Loan Tran & Norbert Riedel
Traycee Home Care Services
Kirk & Catherine Trofholz
Tryst Beauty Relaxation
Education
United Way Of Lake County -
Gifts In Kind
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Michael & Kelli Ventling
Stephanie Victor
Jan Wagner
Sam Wegbreit
Nancy Wells
Susie Welsh
Thomas & Julie Wendorf
James & Susan Wicks
Diana Widman
Betty Lou Wilbur
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Cynthia Wood
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Woodlands Academy
Theresa & Lloyd Yakes
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Lloyd & Caren Yanis
Zengeler Cleaners
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August & Roberta Ziccarelli
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