



Huck House is your house.

Annual Report 2007



Dear Friend,

Since 1970, Huckleberry House has been a refuge for teens in trouble and a respite for families in turmoil. Last year, we helped 1,235 teens and their families reclaim their own homes as safe and supportive. Each individual, each family, each home is a valuable part of our community.

Last year, many of you joined our efforts for strong, healthy families. Our front porch extended far beyond 1421 Hamlet Street. Here are a few examples of how our community cared for our teens:

- Safe Place sites at Kroger Stores, White Castles, and Columbus Fire Stations are available 24 hours a day for youth seeking help.
- The 3rd grade class of Oak Creek Elementary School, in Lewis Center, helped us offer a warmer welcome to teens coming to the shelter by making hygiene kits.
- Discover Financial Services, in New Albany, hosted last year's Holiday party for our youth.

Individuals, organizations and businesses all recognized Huckleberry House as their own. Huckleberry House is everyone's house. We need your gift to continue working for our families and our community. We need to give our kids the chance to become contributors to our community.

Thank you for your help in supporting our teens and families.

Becky Westerfelt
Executive Director

CRISIS PROGRAM

When staying at the crisis shelter, our youth receive the best care. . . the care they deserve. Upon their arrival, we immediately determine what our youth need. We work with them and their families to resolve the problems which pushed the family into crisis. The average stay in the shelter is 5 days. During this time, teens and their families receive intense services focused on reunification.

Last year, 639 of our youth in Central Ohio received shelter and counseling to address the problems they face. Youth from 84% of Franklin County zip codes, as well as youth from other counties, were sheltered.

Kids Are Everywhere

Bexley • Blacklick • Canal Winchester • Columbus •
Commercial Point • Dublin • Gahanna • Lancaster • Galena •
Galloway • Grandview • Grove City • Groveport • Hilliard •
Johnstown • Pataskala • Pickerington • Lewis Center •
Lockbourne • New Albany • Newark • Orient •
Upper Arlington • Urbancrest • Sunbury • Plain City • Powell •
Reynoldsburg • Washington Court House • West Jefferson •
Westerville • Whitehall • Worthington

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

Most of us learn to live on our own, little by little, by observing our parents when growing up at home. Unfortunately, not all teens have that opportunity. Teens in the Transitional Living Program are between the ages of 16 1/2 to 18 and have their own apartment in Columbus. Last year, 67 youth learned skills to live on their own through group sessions and the assistance of a Life Skills Mentor.

Fifty percent of Transitional Living youth are parenting children on their own. They learned valuable parenting skills through our group parenting sessions and one-on-one mentoring. By learning positive parenting techniques, young parents have a firmer foundation for their families' futures.

What Everyone Needs to Know

Budgeting • Grocery Shopping • Laundry • Vacuuming •
Mopping • Cooking • Baking • Applying for a Job • Balancing
a Checkbook • Hygiene • Cleaning • Washing Dishes •
Paying Bills • Communication • Safe Sex • Parenting •
Staying in School



FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support continues to help Columbus families. Our new Counseling Center offers therapy in a more comfortable private counseling room. Last year, 81 individuals and families received counseling. Our counselors help teens and families gain insight into their problems and develop strategies for stability.

Huckleberry House also provides home-based interventions. Last year, 67 youth and families received help for a variety of issues that can affect any family. We help families make specific goals to improve their lives. We are here to make Columbus families healthier and happier.

Everyone Experiences Problems

Poverty • Homelessness • Unemployment • Alcoholism • Depression • School Issues • Chronic Family Stress • Discipline • Divorce • Grieving • Drug Abuse • Absent Parent • Sexual Abuse • Bi-Polar Disorder • Trust Issues • Communication • Dysfunction • Anxiety • Hyperactivity • Physical Abuse • Emotional Abuse • Low Self-Esteem

YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Youth Outreach Program motto is “If they won’t come to us for help, then we will take help to them.” Outreach workers are everywhere in Central Ohio. The Youth Outreach team can be found as far south as Urbancrest and as far north as Genoa. They have been from West Jefferson to Carroll, Ohio. They went to schools, community centers, and parking lots to reach kids who need help. Last year, they spoke with 11,315 youth between the ages of 12-22.

Youth Outreach is reaching out to discuss important issues such as safe sex, staying off drugs and alcohol, and anti-violence. Most importantly, they are making sure our young people are safe and able to find ways to get help. Whether it is a hygiene pack or extending other Huck House programs to the youth, Youth Outreach finds out where kids are and what they need.

Kids Are Found Everywhere

YMCA Valleyview • Lifeskills • Franklin Park Conservatory • Northland H.S. • Krumm Park • Fairfield Career Center • Westland H.S. • Linden McKinley • Eastmoor Academy • Westerville High Schools • Beatty Rec • Barnett • Canal Winchester M.S. • Heritage M.S.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Annually, between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away. In 2006, there were 2,924 runaways reported in Ohio. Life is getting more complicated for our children. Community Education is educating Central Ohio on the serious issues of runaway, homeless and at-risk youth. We teach parents and teens new ways of coping with today's pressures and how to communicate with each other. By using different methods such as presentations, articles and the Web, we help individuals, families and the community at large.

Our goal is to shine a light on issues that compel teens to run away. Last year, the Huckleberry House awareness campaign, The Green Light Project, became a national campaign. We distributed over 9,500 green light bulbs all over the community. By lighting Columbus green in November, we are letting our children know we care about them and their safety.

What Everyone Should Know

Communication • Teen and Parent Relationships •
Peer Relationships • Decision Making • Positive Alternatives •
Where to Seek Help • Self-Esteem • Bullying • Grieving •
Lying • Independence • Setting Limits • Consequences •
Power Struggles • Confrontation

MARC+

Mentoring and Resolving Conflict Positively

When our children are making the wrong choices and on the verge of failure, we are there to keep them on the right track. MARC+ teaches conflict resolution skills in a classroom setting. By using a combination of lectures and practicing new skills, MARC+ helps teens learn new strategies for dealing with conflict in a positive, non-violent way.

Last year, 345 teens participated in MARC+ classes. MARC+ was at 23 schools and organizations conducting 37 nine-week sessions on conflict resolution in Franklin County.

Every Classroom Is An Opportunity

Westerville • Hilliard • Columbus • Southwestern •
Canal Winchester • New Albany • Gahanna • Stevens House •
Hilltop Youth and Family Services • Central Community
House • Southside Children Helping and Prevention •
Franklin County Juvenile Court

Individuals

James and Claudia Abrams
George Anderson
Margret Ashbrook
Susan Ashbrook
Dennis Barr
Mark and Elizabeth Baer
Nancy Beran
David Blackmore
Don and Pam Bouffard
Lynda Bowers
Eric Brehm
Kythryn Carr Hurd
Lynda and Richard Chambers
Howard and Mim Chenfield
Sandy Clary
Michel Coconis
Lynette Cook
Jessica Darr
Kim Davis and Charles Tschantz
Michael Davis
Sandra Dezenski
Terri DiBartolomeo
Richard and Teresa Dumas
Victoria Dutt
Dorothy and George Evans
David and Jennifer Faure
Theresa Feist
Robert and Mary Fenner
Sherri Finelli
Kristine Fink
Marc and Joan Fishel
Shanikka Flinn
Barbara and Michael Folmar
Pamela Garretson
Victoria and Gerald Gilliland
Deborah Goode
Susan Graham
Daniel and Margaret Gregory
Barbara Hail
Alan Higgins
Annette Hoelzer
Holly Hoffer
Kenneth and Anne Hoffman
Tom Horner
Diane Houston
Randall James
Stephen and Katherine Jeffrey
J. Craig and Mary Ellen Jenkins
William Jones
Tami Judge
Benita Kahn
Charles Kerwood III

Kellie Kidd and Pete Shuler
Ron and Mary Ann Koncal
Michael and Anne Knilans
Scott Krueger
Bruce and Debbie Lackey
Paul and Melissa Lacroix
Stacy Lantz
Christine and Keith Legg
Subha Lembach
Martha Lichtensteiger
Merry Jo Linton
Chantale and Kevin Lisko
Seth and Beth Marsh
James Matesich
John Matesich III
Maria Mathews
Doug & Katherine Matthews
Rachel Mazur
Ernest & Florence Mazzaferri
J. Luke McCormick
Daron McDonald
Monica McNamara
Robert McNamara Jr.
Clarence McNeal
Teresa McWain
John Merrill
William Mielke
Dave and Rosemary Miller
Elsie Mills
Adam Minton
John Monaghan
James and Nancy Monahan
Lucille and Robert Mone
Maria Mone
Ed and Celia Mularz
Lynne and Craig Murdick
Shay Myers
Dan Overmyer
Mike and Kathy O'Sullivan
Irwin and Esther Pass
Richard and Ellen Patchen
James and Laura Pauken
James and Beverly Pauken
Patrick and Trudy Pauken
Jennifer Pauken
Laurence Pesyna
Richard Pfeiffer, Jr.
Patricia Powers
Clark and Marilyn Pritchett
Norman Quick
Nancy Radandt

John and Carol Razem
Geoff and Susan Retz
Joel and Laura Rhoades
Jonathan Rinde
David Rosky
Sarah and Mark Ryan
David Shouvin
Thomas and Sandra Shutt
Janet Soltis
Debra and John Stephen
Kathryn Stephens
Nicole Stevens
Robert and Leigh Steward
Jennifer Stoudmire
Loyd and Mary Kay Stuller
Gerald and Olga Tebben
Edward and Joanne Turner
Mahama Uthman
David and Becky Varda
Scott Varner
Walter Velzy
Roseann Volpe
Teresa and Theodore Vukcevic
Larry Waller
Kevin and Constance Walsh
Michael Walton
Kristen Watt
Scott Weisman
Alex Westerfelt
Becky Westerfelt
Vivian Westerfelt
John and Karen Wilhelm
Jill Williams
Lynn Winbush
Larry and Cheryl Winner
David Wolf
Ireta Wood
Heidi Yoakum
Bradley and Elizabeth Youse

Organizations and Businesses

Abbott Laboratories
Alliance Data
American Electric Power
The Andersons, Inc.
AT&T
Brower Benefits Group
BTMC Corp.
Cardinal Health Foundation
Carlile, Patchen and Murphy LLP
Chester Willcox and Saxbe LLP
The Columbus Foundation
Communications Engineering Consultants, LLC
Congregation Tifereth Israel
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Global Impact
Grand Aerie Fraternal Order of Eagles
Great Northern Consulting Services
HHH CPA Group, LLC
Happy Chicken
Hilliard Darby High School
Horner and Company, Inc.
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JP Morgan Chase
KPMG
King Avenue United Methodist Women
The Kroger Company
Leipzig Haus
Limited Brands Foundation
LOEB Electric
Mattlin Foundation
Medco Health
Merry Milk Maid
Moots, Carter and Hogan
Morgan Stanley
National City Bank
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co.
NetJets Corporate
New Albany Women's Network
The OSU Research Foundation
Ohio State Highway Patrol
The Scotts Company
Sunbury United Methodist Church
Trinity United Methodist Women
United Way of Central Indiana, Inc.
United Way of Central Ohio, Inc.
Wal-Mart Stores Incorporated
White Castle Inc.
Workforce Directions, Inc.

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Chavtz Seals Jr.
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Sonya Thesing
Cynthia Vandewater
Jennifer Wenger

Huckleberry House Scholarships

In 2000, Bill McNamara established The William R. McNamara Scholarship because he saw a need in our community. He knew the success of our youth was important to the success of our community. Two new scholarships were given last year at the 10th Annual Turn Around Columbus Youth Award and Recognition Banquet. Previous scholarship winners continue to renew their scholarships to reach their goal of being college graduates.

Huckleberry House is proud to announce two new scholarship funds which were established last year. The Pay It Forward Scholarship Fund, established by the McCulley family, awarded the first scholarship to one determined youth. Jacki McCulley is a Huck House alum who sees “the same care and dedication today” that she received when she stayed in the shelter in 1970.

Beginning next year, The Soltis/Homer Scholarship Fund will award one scholarship annually to a deserving young woman. The Soltis Family is a long time contributor to Huckleberry House and would like to give teens a great start toward their future accomplishments.

Financial Information Page

Revenue

Grants.....	\$1,695,684
United Way	458,919
Medicaid	547,201
Purchase of Services & Discretionary Funding.....	76,827
Contributions	104,063
Interest & Investment.....	222,766

Total Revenue.....\$3,105,460

Expenses

Crisis Program.....	\$812,568
Family Support Program.....	611,579
HUCK Program	79,850
Transitional Living Program.....	982,331
Youth Outreach Program.....	297,961
MARC+ Program.....	77,189
Administration	307,134

Total Expenses.....\$3,173,612

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