

Community Enrichment Center Annual Report – 2007

This report reviews some of the major accomplishments of the Community Enrichment Center during the calendar year 2006.

The most significant change that happened during 2006 was the merger of Open Arms Home, Inc. into the CEC. Open Arms Home was a 501(c)(3) agency that provided transitional housing and counseling for victims of domestic violence.

The boards of the two agencies voted in April 2006 to merge together since the Open Arms program had so many programmatic services that were in common with those of the CEC's Adopt-A-Family Program. Open Arms owned a seven acre campus in north Fort Worth, Texas plus a four-unit apartment building and two resale shops. These assets are now owned and managed by the CEC. As a result of the merger the CEC now has even more skills and services it can offer to the community. The following is a listing of the major programs and their activities during 2006.

Adopt-A-Family Program:

The Adopt-A-Family Program continued its successful work with homeless families in 2006.

During 2006, the Adopt-A-Family Program hosted 99 families with a total of 231 children. The majority of the families served were single parent families.

In addition to the myriad of social services provided by the CEC's case managers, there are several special events during the year that celebrate family and/or acknowledge the importance of the mothers and children in the family. One of those events is the Back to School Carnival and Family Reunion. The Carnival is a day of games, fun and food for the families in the Adopt-A-Family Program plus many alumni families also attend. At the end of the day, each child in the program received a complete set of school clothes plus a back pack while all children received the school supplies they needed.

Adopt-A-Family Program Plans for the year 2007:

The Adopt-A-Family Program will continue its work in terms of life-skills training and other activities to help program participants in getting the education they need in order to be able to earn enough money to support themselves and their children. We are fortunate that two organizations have offered to assist some of our clients with scholarships for vocational training or higher education. Much of

the focus at least in the early part of the year will be on establishing criteria and processes for these scholarships.

Open Arms Program:

Following the merger with Open Arms Home, Inc. the program and services for victims of domestic violence became known as the Open Arms Program of the CEC. This program has been enhanced by including the women and children in the Open Arms Program in all of the activities and training programs that had previously only been available to participants in the Adopt-A-Family Program. The CEC has also implemented a number of improvements to the physical buildings on the campus and invested money in the two Second Glance Resale Shops owned by Open Arms.

During 2006, the Open Arms Program served 39 women with a total of 85 children. These women started the program by living at the secure campus and then moved into other housing provided by the program.

The Affordable Housing Program

With a total of 134 housing units, the CEC is one of the largest housing programs of its type in the country. Typically, between 60 and 80 of our housing units are used by the Adopt-A-Family and Open Arms programs. The CEC uses the remainder as affordable housing. Rents from the affordable housing program help to offset the costs of the Adopt-A-Family and Open Arms programs.

The affordable housing program also gives the CEC an opportunity to help families whose credit score might not be good enough for a market driven landlord. The CEC is able to offer below market rents and is willing to take in people whose credit history has some faults. While these tenants are not formally apart of the Adopt-A-Family Program, they are benefiting from the CEC's approach to housing and via their rent payments they are helping to support the Adopt-A-Family Program at the same time.

The Food Pantry

The Food Pantry served over 31,800 individuals in 2006. In unduplicated terms the pantry served 3,431 different households last year.

The CEC continues to receive major donations of damaged food from Albertsons. These donations are the main source of food for the CEC. Supplementing the Albertson's food are food drives done by an assortment of

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community groups, individuals and businesses. The CEC is the beneficiary of major food drives held by HealthMarkets, North Hills Hospital, HED Chamber of Commerce, Fossil Ridge High School, Fort Worth Christian School, and Harris Methodist HEB Hospital. These food drives are often scheduled to take place during periods when food donations from the general public are down. When the combination of food from Albertson's and the food drives do not provide enough food to meet the demands, the CEC buys food from Tarrant Area Food Bank. The CEC is also a member of a food cooperative that gives the CEC the flexibility to trade one type of food that may be in excess for another type that the CEC's pantry is short. The combination of these resources helps to keep the CEC Food Pantry shelves full.

The successful seniors program that was started in 2004 has become an example of community building programs at the CEC. During 2007 a second community building program was started for single parent families.

Single parents are invited to a dinner meeting once a month. The meetings include a speaker and/or entertainment, door prizes and gifts, child care and an opportunity for the parents to not only learn about resources available to them in the community but they also are connecting with each other as a peer support group, much like our seniors program has developed into. The monthly dinners are rotated amongst several of our partner churches, often with the singles group at the church hosting the dinner.

Since the Food Pantry is doing so many programs and projects in addition to providing groceries, a name change seemed appropriate this year. The new name is Community Ministries. Within Community Ministries are the Food Pantry, the Seniors Network, the Single Parent Family Network, the Community Christmas Program, and the GED classes.

Community Ministries Program Plans for the year 2007:

Community Ministries is working to make each of its components more responsive to the target audiences. Community building is the main area in which effort is being expended to expand the programs and to have more of our community partners participate.

Community Christmas:

Community Christmas took on a new look this year. The event which had been a first come first serve toy give away for the general public is now a day long program for members of the Single Parent Family Network, Adopt-A-Family and Open Arms families and invited clients from the Food Pantry. In total 254 families with 798 children were served in a single day in 2006.

The day was full of activities. There were crafts, a cake walk, a game room for younger children and a separate game room for pre-teens and teens. Santa was there to hand out presents specifically listed on each child's wish list. A photographer took families portraits that were printed and distributed by the end of the day. There was a gift room for the children to select gifts for their parents along with an area where those gifts could be wrapped (with the assistance of a youth group). Parents had a toy room to select additional gifts for their children. A full plated lunch was provided for all.

Toys and gifts for the parents were provided by the Star-Telegram Holiday Toy Party, Children's Charities of Fort Worth, North Hills Hospital, and the North Richland Hills Fire Fighters.

Volunteers at the CEC

The CEC received the blessing of hundreds of volunteers during the year. Over 17,500 volunteer hours were logged, mostly in the Food Pantry, by over 1400 people who volunteered at least once during the year. Many thousands of additional hours were provided by groups when individual hours were not separately tracked. Volunteers unloaded trucks, performed quality inspections of the food, sorted and shelved the food, repackaged bulk foods, and filled food orders. Volunteers ran the registration desk, performed interviews and helped pick up donations of food. Volunteer mentors in the Adopt-A-Family program helped with prayer support and encouragement for the families in the program as they made the difficult transition from homelessness to economic stability. Volunteers also provided child care and other services on the Open Arms campus and helped at the two Second Glance Resale Shops.

The level of volunteer support at special events such as the Back to School Carnival, golf tournament and Community Christmas continues to be impressive. As an example, this year the Colleyville Woman's Club provided gifts, prepared and served meals and hosted the Mother's Day Dinner for the moms in the Adopt-A-Family Program.

Development

The merger with Open Arms entailed several administrative tasks related to learning and combining donor databases and contacting major sponsors about the merger. The combined mailing list grew from 5,100 names to over 8,200 names. These people receive the CEC newsletter and solicitation requests during the year. A separate development effort was successfully mounted to raise money specifically to cover expenses resulting from the merger.

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There were over 800 individual donors and another 250 businesses, churches, and civic organizations that contributed to the CEC and Open Arms during the year. In total there were 232 new donors.

The CEC Newsletter was published four times and four direct mail solicitations were sent out during the year. In total, just over \$56,000 was raised.

The annual CEC Classic golf tournament grossed \$102,900, almost exactly the amount raised in 2005. Most of the money came from corporate sponsorships. Byron Nelson was the guest of honor at the Golf Sponsor Appreciation Outing. He had his picture taken with sponsors and guests. His death in September will leave an unfillable void at the CEC. Byron's involvement in the golf tournament plus his personal donations during the year were an impressive statement of his faith and support in the CEC.

Major donors and community supporters during 2006:

Amon G. Carter Foundation
Beryl Companies
Betty Sanders
Burlington Resources Foundation
Byron and Peggy Nelson
CitiFinancial
Colleyville Woman's Club
Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Cook Children's Health Plan
Esping Family Foundation
Flooring Services, Ltd.
Harris Methodist HEB Hospital
HealthMarkets
J.P. Morgan Private Client Services
John P. Ryan Foundation
Lockheed-Martin Aero Club
M.R. & E. Hudson Foundation
Meadows Foundation
National Charity League, Southlake Chapter
North Hills Hospital
Southlake Women's Club
Wells Fargo Bank
Windgate Charitable Foundation

Development Plans for 2007

Major donor development will continue to be the emphasis in 2007, especially bringing past Open Arms donors into the CEC family.

2006 Board of Directors

See Attached list of 2006 board members and their affiliations. A unique aspect of the CEC's board is that several members are graduates of the Adopt-A-Family or Open Arms programs. These people help to keep the board focused and grounded in terms of the services needed by the families in the program.

The full board normally meets every other month starting in January. During the months when the full board is not meeting, most board subcommittees meet.

Financials:

The statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2005 Audited Financial Report is attached. It shows that the total assets of the CEC were \$3,237,983 with liabilities at \$100,820 resulting in net assets of \$3,137,163.