

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER'S

Family

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CUS

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AREA RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES

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LOOKING BACK... AND AHEAD

The President's Message

The year 2000 has been a very demanding one from all viewpoints at West Midland Family



ZACHARIAS

Center. Our expansion project, which will nearly double the size of the Center, is well underway and is proceeding as planned. We are on time and on budget! When completed, the new building will provide new classrooms, new teaching areas, a second gymnasium and an outdoor pool...all designed to serve the community.

We continue to be blessed by exceptional support from users, from volunteers and the staff, despite the multiple inconveniences associated with the expansion. The staff at the Center, while having to cope with some turnover in personnel, continues to be highly motivated and committed to provide many services to the community.

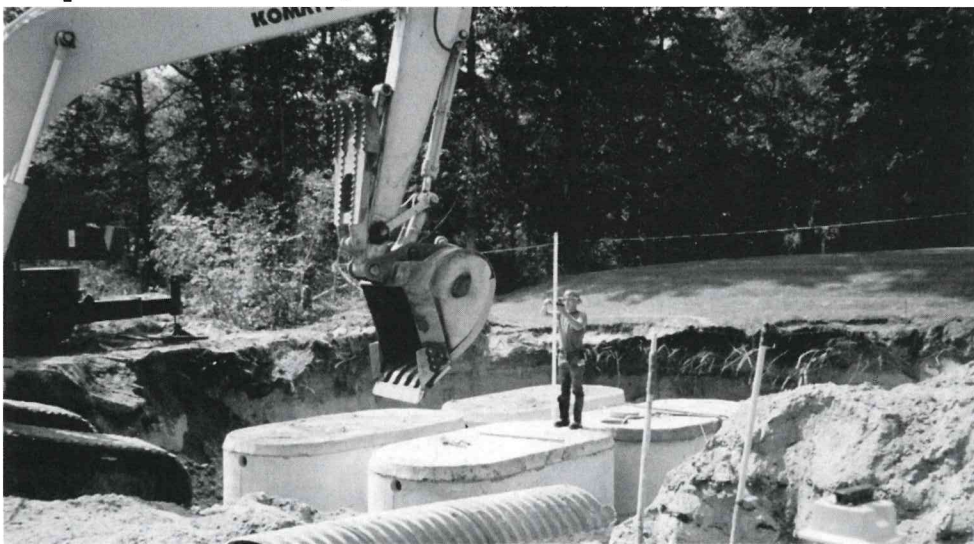
Our donors, both large and small, continue to be most generous, enabling us to expand and grow to better meet the needs of the community. Our Board of Directors and many valuable advisors have been going the extra mile to make sure we meet our goals and fulfill our commitments. Many, many THANKS to all of you.

I would be derelict in my duty if I failed to understand that 2001 will also be a very challenging year for all of us. There will be a new environment with the completion of the expansion and re-establishing a larger staff to meet new needs.

On behalf of the Board, I want to ask for your

See **PRESIDENT**, Page 4

Expansion Project on the Home Stretch!



Despite the challenges that snow, sleet and rain bring with them, construction crews have continued battling the elements throughout the winter months to stay on schedule with West Midland Family Center's Building Expansion Project. Groundbreaking took place May 17, 2000, with completion targeted for May of this year.

From the outside, the Center's additional brick walls give the building a finished appearance, while inside, the various new rooms are beginning to take shape.

A look inside the new gym reveals what appears to be a mere shell, with exposed rafters and a cement floor. But, upon closer inspection, one finds finished framework, completed electrical wiring and even some warmth from the functioning heaters.

Meanwhile, the new section on the north end of the building is evolving into long-awaited

preschool rooms, administrative offices and child care space.

South end additions include utility and Food Pantry storage rooms, as well as the outdoor pool, which is poured and already half-filled. Why? The weight helps to settle the structure. In the spring it will be emptied, cracks sealed, then re-filled for use. More spacious locker and dressing room areas will also be enjoyed by future pool users.

How has the staff at WMFC been handling the noise, dust and small work areas since last

See **EXPANSION**, Page 4

Dow COP Provides Life-Changing Opportunity for Students

The Dow College Opportunity Program is a mentoring program for prospective college students. Every year new candidates enter the program, where they remain for the next four years in preparation for their college experience.

In 1994, Jennifer Riedlinger was just such a student. Today she is a Biology major in her junior year at Alma College. She began working as a staff member for Dow COP in December, acting as a student mentor for COP participants. Of her own years in the program, Jennifer says, "There is nothing else like it-the experiences could never be replaced."

Jennifer recalls her many volunteer experi-

ences in her four years as a COP student. Planting flowers in the community, working in a soup kitchen, attending a work camp in Alabama, where she met students from all over the United States. Her senior year was topped off with a white water rafting trip. "These experiences," says Jennifer, "cause you to get out of your comfort zone, which allows you to stretch yourself in ways you would otherwise not consider." Jennifer will be stretching herself again



RIEDLINGER

in February, when she leaves for the University of Otago in New Zealand to study for four and a half months.

Another incentive that makes the program attractive is monetary assistance, one of the biggest hurdles in obtaining a college education. Once the COP students enter college, they are guided through the maze of financial aid by the Program Director to determine their eligibility for various funds.

How important is this program in practical life-changing terms? Recent statistics show that people with a Bachelor's degree earned at least \$15,000.00 more in 1998 than high school grad-

See **OPPORTUNITY**, Page 4

Musical Chairs... Competitiveness... and Lots of Hugs!

Animals and humans learn a lot about their world through play.

Musical Chairs is a game I loved as a kid. It appealed to my competitive nature. Two determined youngsters wiggling into the same chair was a challenge I relished. Sending the loser to the graveyard confirmed my superiority over the others. Competitive games are great for children growing up in a capitalist society. They help them learn what the real world will be like.

Even in the non-profit world there is a great deal of competitiveness. It is common for us to submit a grant proposal to the State or a foundation, knowing full well that only 10 proposals will be funded while the other 100 end up in the recycling center.

But what's different about the non-profit world is that we are all expected to work collaboratively and compassionately after having been beaten (or won) in the grant-making game. In the "real" world, organizations get their feelings hurt just like the boy who is the last one chosen for a ball game.

Competitiveness takes on as many forms in the non-profit world as it does in the "real" world. It starts with the battle to recruit (or retain) staff members....and often concludes with which organization gets the most ink in the local press.

All our dealings with the people who seek our services need to be collaborative and compassionate. In one day, we may have to shift from a "business-like" mindset to a "we have to help these people" mindset. And we may have to do it 10 or 15 times. This is not always an easy thing to do.

My natural instinct (let's keep it all for us!) tells me to err on the business side. Fortunately,

this organization is blessed with people like Gail Crosby, Ginger Yarch, Renee Shauger, Tracy Meister....and many others. When they see a game like Musical Chairs, they instinctively know that it's more fun if you remove a chair each round, but you don't remove people. Instead, you end up with 10 kids trying to fit on one chair....and it's a wonderful time of acceptance for all.



DORRIEN

I, too, am blessed! The great part of directing an organization filled with this type of employee is that they sacrifice their own comfort for the well-being of others.

Our building expansion project has made everyone's job more difficult in many ways, but I have yet to hear the first serious complaint about all the stress we've endured during the past year. Of course, the kicker is that when the building is finished, we'll all have more work because there is a much larger opportunity to serve the community. *And they're all looking forward to it!*

If your school or your organization needs to move toward this type of attitude, I recommend that you start by sharing the poem quoted. It's a beautiful expression of our philosophy of pulling our organization and our community together. (My thanks to Vicki Rutledge of NEMSCA Headstart for sharing this at a meeting last year.) *We are trying!*

TOLL-FREE NUMBER

1-877-631-WMFC (9632)

HUG O' WAR

I will not play that Tug O' War,
I'd rather play at Hug O' War-
Where everyone hugs,
Instead of Tugs;
Where everyone giggles
And rolls on the rug;
Where everyone kisses,
And everyone grins,
And everyone cuddles,
And everyone wins.

Shel Silverstein,

Where the Sidewalk Ends—1974

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PresidentWin Zacharias
Vice PresidentJim Anderson
SecretaryJo Ann Winchester
TreasurerBenjamin Dollard
Directors: Julie Arbury, Greg Bergtold,
Don Koster, Janet Miller, Bill Schmidt,
Tom Trouten, Joe Vanderkelen

STAFF

Executive DirectorGreg Dorrien
Program DirectorGail Crosby
Financial DirectorBecky Lampman
Office ManagerDiane DeMott
Receptionists: Teri Booth, Christy Chappel,
Diane Dauer, Jennifer Yarch
Maintenance DirectorBarry Lenski
Maintenance Staff ..Gerald Burkett, Mike Kirby,
Kelli Bade
Dow College Opportunities Director ..Lynn Paveglio
Dow COP Assistant DirectorTracy Meister
Dow COP AssistantJennifer Riedlinger
Family Services DirectorRenee Shauger
New Initiatives & Prom. Coordntr. ..Susan Love
Family ConsultantLois Burton
Youth SpecialistMary Jeppeson
Teen CoordinatorStacie Gath
Youth & Teen Staff: Amanda Allen, Tom Berlin,
Jamie Bawks, Cheryl Corpus, Nicki Gainsforth,
Brian Lukins, Sarah Lukins, Stephanie Morgan,
Tonya Morton, Robert Shook, Andi Strohm,
Carla Strong, Jessica Taylor, Samantha Turner
Preschool TeachersElaine Fabinski
Cindy Schrauben
Preschool Teacher AssistantBarb Simons
Preschool AidesMissy Finney
Mary Beth Hintermeister
Van Drivers ..Leslie Noykos, Tommie Stonburner
NEMSCA Head Start Ass't Teacher ..Jenny Ogg
Child Care DirectorGinger Yarch
Child Care Aides: Connie Billings, Eileen Burch,
Sheleigh Burton Anabelle Curtis,
Shelly Miller, Penny Owen, Eva Searfoss,
Becky Sexton, Kirsten Wendling, Keri Yarch
Senior Program StaffSusan Wells
Council On Aging Site Manager ...Judy Wirtz

WMFC 2000 BENEFACTORS

Organization	Amount	Organization	Amount
Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation.....	1,500,000*	WMFC Auxiliary.....	4,945
Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation.....	1,000,000**	Midland County Child Protection Council.....	4,103
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation.....	750,000 *	Lee Township.....	4,000
The Dow Chemical Company Foundation.....	240,000*	Charles J Strosacker Foundation.....	3,000
Charles J. Strosacker Foundation.....	220,000*	Marshall Fields (Hudson's).....	2,900
Dow Corning Foundation.....	90,000*	Greendale Township.....	2,500
State of Michigan.....	358,540	Snow Machines, Inc.....	2,500
Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation.....	250,131	NE Michigan Community Service.....	2,060
United Way of Midland County.....	138,750	Blessed Sacrament Church.....	1,900
Alden & Vada Dow Family Foundation.....	62,000	North Midland Family Center.....	1,403
Towsley Foundation.....	45,000	First United Methodist Church.....	1,000
Rollin M Gerstacker Foundation.....	41,000	Midland County.....	1,000
Dow Chemical Foundation.....	25,000	Head Start.....	807
Children's Trust Fund.....	10,080	Memorial Presbyterian Church.....	500
Midland Preschool.....	9,170	Childcare Concepts.....	410
Midland Kiwanis Foundation.....	6,500	Zonta Club of Midland.....	250
Homer Township.....	6,250	St. Brigid's Church.....	250

* 3-year grant pledge towards the Center's Building Expansion Project

**5 year matching grant pledge toward the WMFC Program Endowment Fund

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Arnold Allemang, Julie Arbury, J. Barbier, Steven & Linda Bearss, Stuart & Ruth Ann Bergstein, Constance & Charles Blanchard, Violet Bluemer, James Bradley, Loyal & Ruth Brown, James & Arlene Burlingame, Jennifer & Thomas Burlingame, Ruth & Bill Caldwell, Anna Eileen Carmouche, Manson & Dorothy Carpenter, Wayne Crosby, Elma Deline, Diane DeMott, Jenny Dionise, Herbert & Junia Doan, Timothy Dobbs, Helen Dockham, Ben & Catherine Dollard, Greg Dorrien, John & Virginia Dorrien, Bob & Mary Ann Dostal, Joe & Stacy Dostal, Donna & Janice Ector, Sandra Engle, Walter Ewing, Ken Foster & Janice Karlovich, Richard Furlow, Jack & Dorothy Gibbons, Earl & Mary Ann Gonyaw, Kenneth & Denise Grove, Edward & Shirley Gurnee, Floyd Hall, Richard Harris, Vernon Harry, John Hinson, Elizabeth Johnson, Mary Kane, Robert Keil, Steven & Carol Keinath, Betty & Ora King, Tammy Kohnert, Don & Beverly Koster, Robert & Marjorie Krieger, F.R. Lehman, Charles & Elinor Lentz, Herbert & Antoinette Lyon, Marie & James Mahoney, W. Mayton, Margaret McGee, Elaine McLaren, Robert & Margery Mesler, G. Edward & Ardith Metcalf, Alan & Julie Oman, Sherry O'Neil, Paul & Phyllis Pankratz, Michael Parker, Larry & Maureen Pillepich, George Polansky, Frank & Jean Popoff, Sheldon & Mildred Putham, John Reder, William & Bethany Schmidt, Robert & S. Ann Stein, Charles & Suzanne Stofor, Morley & Betty Strauch, Ross & Arlene Thompson, Ira & Sue Thumma, Theodore & Helen Townsend, Deborah Trucks, Betty VanderKelen, Joe & Kimberly VanderKelen, Enza & Isabel Vagas, Susan Wells, West Midland Family Center Staff, G.J. Williams, John & Rosemary Wilson, JoAnn Winchester, John & JoAnn Winchester, Dennis & Ginger Yarch, G. Yatch, James Young, W.C. Zacharias, Ben & Kathleen Zipperer

+A number of individuals donated in honor of Arlene Burlingame

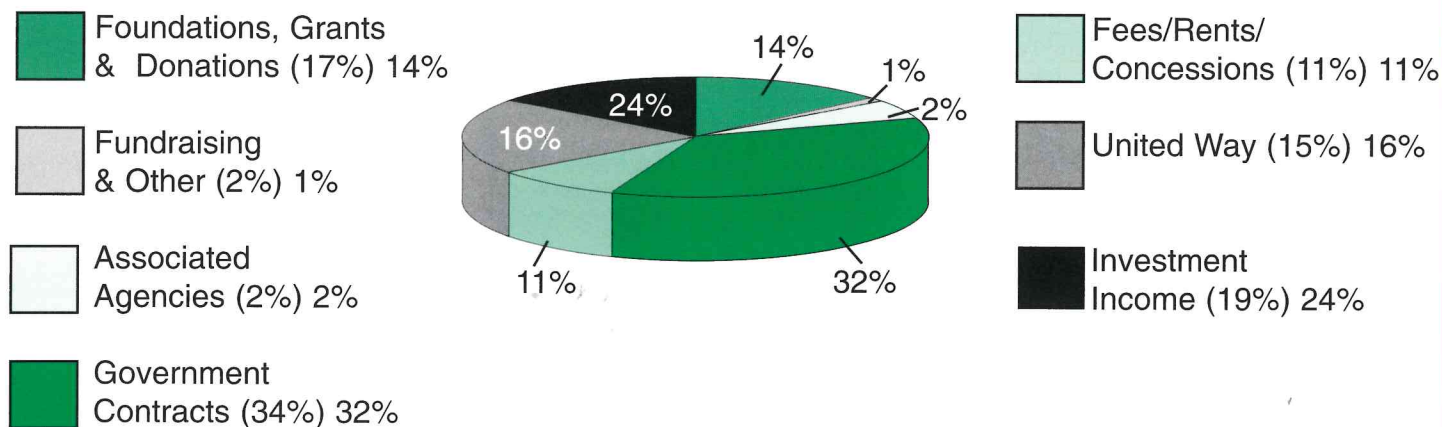
2000 ANNUAL REPORT

Budget Summary (Unaudited)

Figures in Brackets represent actual income and expenses for 1999.

2000 OPERATING INCOME

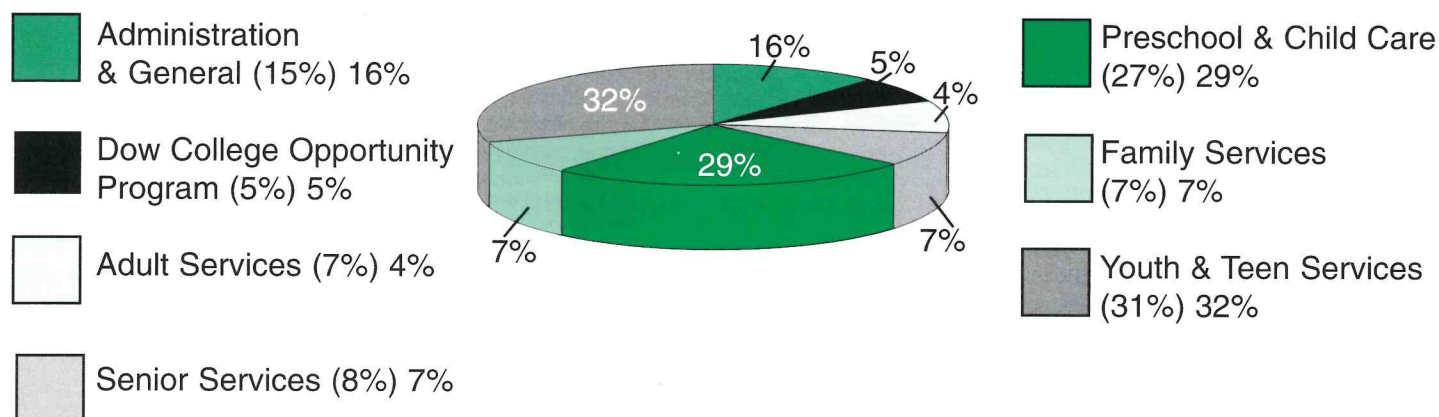
TOTAL: \$1,182,115 (\$1,132,228)*



***Contributions to Building Expansion and Restricted Endowment Fund not included.**

2000 EXPENSE

TOTAL: \$1,193,783 (\$1,086,951)



% PROGRAM GROWTH IN SELECTED PROGRAM AREAS 1997-2000 (UNITS OF USE)

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Preschool & Child Care: (days of care)	8,433	12,222	13,650	13,871
Family Support Services: (individuals served)	360	708	745	762
Summer Programs: (days of service)	4,924	5,568	4,949	4,507
Dow College Opportunity Program: (hours of service)	8,125	8,715	8,260	8,407

2000 ESTIMATED VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND DONATIONS

Market Value	
Volunteer Hours:	\$245,000
Donated Goods:	\$110,000
TOTAL WORTH: . .	\$355,000

WMFC Staff Shows Holiday Spirit

Throughout the year, the essence of generosity is demonstrated at WMFC, but it is most evident during the holiday season when the Center is a whirlwind of activity. The commotion is generally steered by a team of enthusiastic staff members. This year, five staff members shopped, wrapped, sorted and distributed hundreds of gifts to area families.

Some of the gifts were donations from the Midland Sharing Tree Project, while thirty families who did not receive Sharing Tree gifts were "adopted" through the efforts of Family Services Director, Renee Shauger. She matched families to sponsors, who shopped for the gifts, then turned them over to WMFC staff for distribution.

Holiday assistance was also provided for 16 additional families with funds donated to WMFC specifically for that purpose. Again, caring staff members shopped for gifts, wrapped

and distributed them to families whose needs may have been left unmet, if not for this effort.

Among the 46 families assisted by WMFC in west Midland County for the 2000 holiday season were 105 children and 24 adults.

WMFC also hosted its annual Holiday Open House December 7. About 80 guests attended the free event, which included holiday crafts, caroling, games and prizes, as well as refreshments.

President

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continuing strong support, your help and your patience as West Midland Family Center continues its long journey to "make a difference" in the West Midland Community.

Opportunity

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uates. That basic difference alone amounts to \$525,000.00 over the course of a 35-year career. The freedom attained through additional income will help to broaden future prospects for program participants.

With the arrival of each year's new group of students, WMFC's dedication to expanding the horizons of young people is renewed. Dow COP enables students to build on their strengths and gives them the confidence to travel in the direction of their goals and dreams. Our goal is to provide students with the encouragement necessary to broaden their view of the world and move beyond the limits they may have set for themselves....and each new candidate offers us that opportunity. Every successful college graduate reasserts the value of a support network and the unique life-changing program we provide with Dow COP.

D

Capable Kids Earn Top Marks from Mom

After attending WMFC's Capable Kids Program, Marci Wood was inspired to write the following thank you letter:

"I have been attending the Capable Kids Program since it began, and I've enjoyed it very much. I've learned a lot about myself and about my children. The program has helped me to become a better person and a much better parent. I've learned to be more patient and understanding, especially with my kids."

I lived in Midland for seven years and made only one good friend. After I began coming to this class I met many new friends during the first two months.

One woman with children the same ages as mine has become a very good friend, and we often do things together. WMFC is a great place. I love the people and the atmosphere. Thank you for making this wonderful class available to people who need it the most!"



2000 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

We are now accepting
Nominations for the...

- ★ Orrin Barrett
Volunteer of the Year
- ★ Phyllis Breedlove
Friend of the Center
- ★ Steve Barstow
Youth Volunteer

Please pick-up your nomination
forms at the front desk

Awards will be presented at
the Appreciation Dinner
Sunday, April 29

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