

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER'S

Family

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ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AREA RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1 • 4011 W. Isabella Road • Shepherd, MI 48883 • www.wmfc.org • (989) 832-3256 • SPRING 2004

The President's Message

It is again an honor to have been elected to serve as President of the West Midland Family Center's Board of Directors. I accept this role knowing that the needs of western Midland County community are being served by WMFC and that we must continue providing programs and services to enhance quality of life.

The year 2003 has been very, very challenging for all associated with the Center. The



Bob Dostal

downturn in the economy, and associated financial constraints, has resulted in considerable impact on the activities at WMFC. But, despite these challenges we have continued to successfully provide programs and services for the west Midland County community. For example, there were zero out-of-home placements from 98 at-risk families and zero divorces in 25 targeted families. Seventy-two preschool and Headstart students are much better prepared for kindergarten, and 210 children (many at risk) attended our summer program each day throughout the summer. Two hundred teens weekly attended our combined Friday and Saturday night programs.

The financial downturn has been motivation for us to move more aggressively on the program evaluation process we have underway. The process has been very rewarding because it has forced us to look more intelligently at where we should consider adding and reducing programs, based on their impact on our core mission. We are very appreciative for the efforts of staff members and Larry Reeves, one of our new Board members, in leading this effort. We are also thankful for our understanding staff during these difficult times.

Our benefactors continue to offer their financial support for the activities we have underway. We want you to know we could not be successful in this venture were it not for your continued faith and generous support. Thank you very much!

With everyone's continued support and best efforts the West Midland Family Center will have a successful 2004.

Introducing Two of WMFC's Finest....

Her name is Diane DeMott but most people affectionately call her Dedi. She was born in Detroit, but at the age of eight her family moved to Los Angeles, California. They moved an average of twice a year until her junior year in high school. Dedi has one brother in Alaska, three sisters in Michigan and one in Florida. She loves to garden, make quilts, paint, draw, and do crafty things, but most of all, she loves to spend time with her nieces.



Diane DeMott

Dedi found the Center when her niece Stephanie began attending WMFC's preschool. At that time, Dedi was a live-in Nanny for her nieces Annette and Stephanie, and "Preschool Mom" for Stephanie. As a result of Stephanie's preschool involvement, Dedi began doing volunteer work at the Center. One day in 1992, after dropping Stephanie off for preschool Dedi was called into the office and offered a job! She has been working at the Center ever since.

As the girls grew so did Dedi's responsibilities at the Center. Originally, she worked on a very part-time basis at the Front Desk and during Friday Night Activities. Today, her nieces are 15 and 18 and Dedi is employed full time at the Center as the Office Manager.



Missy Finney

Missy Finney's association with West Midland Family Center began as a parent volunteer when her oldest daughter began preschool in Mrs. Fabinski's class. Missy began working at the Center in 1996 when her daughter entered kindergarten. She started working part-time in the newly opened childcare program, and was asked to pick up additional hours working as a preschool aide. Eventually Gail Crosby "spotted her" and enlisted Missy's help doing "little extras" i.e. filing, typing. In 2000 Missy moved into the full time Administrative Assistant position she holds today.

Missy is the youngest of four children, born and raised in Alpena, Michigan where the rest of her family remains. She moved to Midland in July of 1989. In 1992 she married her husband Jeff who was born and raised here. They make their home in the West Midland Community, and have three children. Ashton is 12 and attends Bullock Creek Middle School. Carly age six, attends Bullock Creek's Floyd Elementary and Madison her one year old, is growing so fast Missy expects the West Midland preschool year to arrive in no time! With a fulltime job and three children, Missy does not have much spare time, but she and her husband enjoy watching their children play softball and basketball.

Please Plan On Attending
the Appreciation Awards Dinner
Sunday • April 25, 2004 • 4:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. at 832-3256

On The Turning Away

SPRING! Just seeing the word makes me feel warm. In the past this would have been enough to get me thinking of golf, baseball, mosquito bites and a thousand other things.



This year I have one happy repeating thought. No more children and senior citizens freezing in unheated homes. January and February were brutal. WMFC and many of our partnering churches and organizations ran out or were severely rationing Home Heating Emergency Funds at about the same time, right in the middle of a prolonged cold snap. A front page Midland Daily News article spurred interest among community members to help. As a result we received several thousand dollars (other organizations probably did too). After that there was no more turning away.

PINK FLOYD fans may recognize the real life drama of the previous paragraph closely

paralleling a favorite tune (and my own personal mission):

*No more turning away
from the weak and the weary
No more turning away
from the coldness inside
Just a world that we all must share
It's not enough to just stand and stare
Is it only a dream that there'll be
no more turning away.*

I would like to take this moment to thank all of you who answered the call to help this past year and also to all of you who prayed for warmer weather. See, there is always a way to help!

In a time of state wide economic challenges we are proud to have added three new partners in our fight to improve the strength and character of the individuals who seek out assistance at WMFC. Our new partners include:

The Gladwin County Youth Abstinence Coalition (Helping teens recognize the value of their future). Thank you, JoAnne Clagg and Lisa Moseler!

The Midland County Educational Services Agency (speech therapy services, for preschoolers). Thanks Laura McBride!

Kinder Kare (providing quality child care to working families). Thanks to Chantel Briggs and crew!

During difficult economic times all three of these organizations chose to expand their reach and provide service where it is needed most. It is easy to say, "I can't," but I'll ask each of you to look deeper within yourselves and find a way to say yes...to your family, your neighbor or anyone needing your attention and support. When that happens the Midland Daily News headline won't read: "Local Hero Gives Hope," but it should.

Look For These Friendly Faces At WMFC:

Board President.....Bob Dostal

Vice President.....Ben Dollard

Secretary.....E.J. Herst

Treasurer.....William Schmidt

Directors:.....Greg Bergtold, Rod Dishaw,

Larry Reeves, Sue Thumma, Cheryl VanConant,

Joe VanderKelen, Win Zacharias

Advisors:.....Jim Burlingame, Michael Custer,

Bob Hermann, Thomas Misner,

Chuck Norisez, Alan Oman, Jerry Schaar

Executive Director.....Greg Dorrien

Director of Programs.....Gail Crosby

Financial Director.....Jason Green

Office Manager.....Diane DeMott

Administrative Assistant.....Missy Finney

Reception Staff.....Diane Dauer, Lori Gravis,

Christy Chapple

Maintenance Director.....Jeff Myers

Maintenance Staff.....Kelli Bade, Tammy Brown,

Gerald Burkett, Mike Kirby

Computer Class Instructor.....Peggy Hoff

New Initiatives & Promotions.....Susan Love

Dow College Opportunity

Program Director.....Lynn Heil

Teen Program Director.....Sara Garska

Family Services Director.....Renee Young

Success by Six Parent Coach.....Dianne Fleming

Family Consultant.....Lois Burton

Recreation and Aquatics Director.....Renee Allen

Youth & Teen Staff.....Jen Anderson, Jenny

Heistand, Jessica Herron, Mike Iseman,

Stacey Kirby, Taber Lower, Dave Mathews,

Julie Mayra, Bob Morales, Nathaniel Newsted,

Scott Page, Tony Rosado, Tammy Screws,

Joe Spencer

Preschool Teachers.....Elaine Fabinski, Wendy Plewa

Early Childhood Staff.....Eileen Burch,

Dianna Laporta, Shelly Miller

Penny Owen, Barb Simons, Susan Wells

Senior Program Staff.....Susan Wells

Kinder Kare Director.....Chantel Briggs

Kinder Kare Staff.....Eileen Burch, Sheena Burch,

Sheleigh Burton, Jenny Heistand, Autumn Kline,

Penny Owen, Vivian McWethy, Eva Searfoss

Council On Aging Site Manager.....Tammy Jerome

Council On Aging Staff.....Sandra Engle,

Barb Fenby, Marsha Orwig

Individual and Family Counseling.....Larry Quinn

ORGANIZATIONAL BENEFACTORS FOR 2003

Amount	Amount
State of Michigan.....399,631	Kiwanis.....750
United Way of Midland County.....213,000	Remax.....500
Herbert H & Grace A Dow Foundation.....143,369	Michigan Arts Association.....500
Federal Grants.....67,314	M.A.P. Mechanical Contractors, Inc.....500
Alden & Vada Dow Foundation.....50,000	Comerica Bank.....500
Towsley Foundation.....45,000	Midland Morning Rotary Club.....365
WMFC Auxiliary.....35,367	CMU Physics Department.....250
MI County ESA ASAP-PIE.....28,552	Members First Credit Union.....250
Rollin Gerstacker Foundation.....20,000	Wal-Mart Foundation.....200
Senior Services.....10,800	Brandle Roofing and Sheet Metal.....200
Dow Chemical Foundation.....10,000	Elder Beerman.....122
Homer Township.....6,250	TOPS.....100
Strosacker Foundation.....5,000	The Tancor Corporation.....100
Blessed Sacrament.....5,000	The Apothecary Shoppe.....100
Lee Township.....5,000	Servinski Sod Service.....100
First United Methodist Church.....3,783	Midland Seventh Day Adventist Church.....100
Yost Family.....3,000	Midland City Education Assoc.....100
Snow Machines.....2,500	M&M Stump Removal.....100
Bergstein Foundation.....2,500	Lapelle's Flowers & Greenhouse.....100
Greendale Township.....2,500	Jackson Accounting.....100
Kiwanis Foundation.....1,552	Homer United Methodist Church.....100
United Steelworkers.....1,000	Davis & Davis Orthodontics.....100
The Doan Family Foundation.....1,000	Caltech Industries Inc.....100
Hopfensperger Hair Design.....1,000	Omni Tech International.....50
Gerstacker Foundation.....1,000	TOTAL.....\$1,070,355
Family & Children's Services.....850	

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

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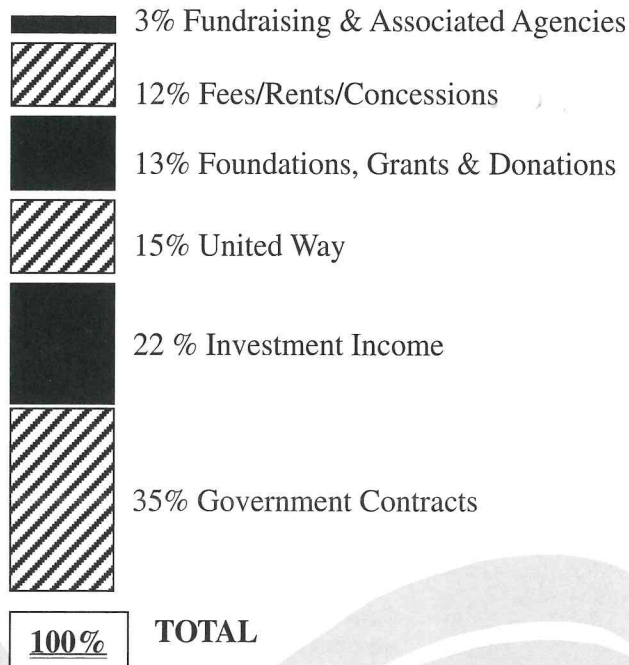
2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Budget Summary (Unaudited)

Figures in Brackets represent income and expense from 2002

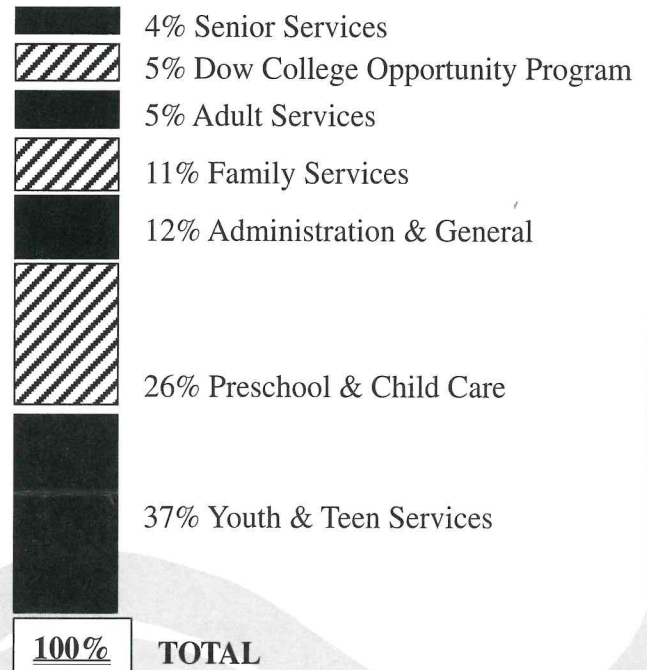
2003 OPERATING INCOME*

TOTAL \$1,410,941 (\$1,639,700)



2003 EXPENSE

TOTAL \$1,410,941 (\$1,586,455)



*Contributions to Restricted Endowment Fund not included.

TRENDS IN SELECTED PROGRAM AREAS 2000-2003 (UNITS OF USE)

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Preschool & Child Care: (days of care)	13,871	19,754	20,811	19,912
Family Support Services: (individuals served)	762	793	807	778
Summer Programs: (days of service)	4,507	4,760	4,134	4,056
Friday Night Teen Activities: (total attendance)	3,202	7,550	7,644	7,020

2003 ESTIMATED VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND DONATIONS

Market Value

Volunteer Hours:	\$ 262,000
Donated Goods:	\$ 187,000
	<u>\$ 449,000</u>

CHILDREN COME HOME TO WEST MIDLAND, AFTER SCHOOL



Hanna Eastman, Holly Evans, Jenna Wolfe
Happy faces courtesy of WMFC's Stay Cool After School Program.

Every day approximately 45 children come home to West Midland Family Center after school. Here they find a multitude of smiling adults awaiting their arrival. The school bus arrives at 4:00 p.m.; children clamber off for snack and headcount.

The chatter and excitement continue as children move from one activity to another. Each day children have recreational opportunities, time to work on homework and a choice of "stations" which may include crafts, computer lab time, games, girls club or Cub Scouts.



Sean Card, Aaron Dice and Jason Wolfe participate in a
communication activity facilitated by the Circle of Health Partnership.

Children are exposed daily to the SECOND STEP VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM. This program is designed to help children formulate their own solutions to relationship problems without resulting violence. Once a week the Circle of Health Partnership provides activities that help children make healthy lifestyle choices.

West Midland's Stay Cool After School program exemplifies the notion that it takes a community to raise a child. The fast paced nature of today's society, cause parents to be evermore

reliant on outside assistance. These families require an environment of enrichment for their children in the hours after school, which is precisely what is provided. Happy faces of children become our mark of achievement...when they are smiling, we're doing our job! The Stay Cool After School program comes to us each day with funds provided through the Governor's Discretionary Grant funds.

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