

YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ANNUAL REPORT 2011



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CO-PRESIDENTS

Fiscal 2011 was another successful year of serving the children and families we proudly work with at Youth Homes. In addition to focusing on our core group home and therapeutic programs, we continued to address how the organization will adapt and remain financially healthy as the environment for the delivery of, and compensation for, social services changes. We are assessing our physical inventory of homes, the services we provide, and the manner in which we deliver those services. We recognize we need to remain financially healthy in order to fulfill our mission, and are taking steps to embrace new services and revenue sources that complement our core mission.

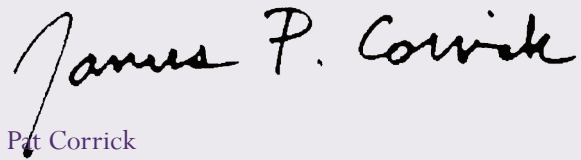
One step we took was adding more services to support families through an absorption of a long-standing Missoula non-profit, Friends to Youth. This immediately expanded our counseling and therapy services for children and families under our Dan Fox Family Care Program. It also added to our already existing commitment to keep families together or reunite families who have been broken apart in crisis or pain.

Our Board of Directors also made a commitment to replace our oldest group home, the Tom Roy Youth Guidance Home, with a new LEED-certified home designed to enhance the health, educational and environmental needs of the older adolescents we serve at Youth Homes. We are excited to rebuild the Tom Roy Home to ensure that many future generations of teenagers are able to find security, a sense of belonging and a place to call home.

The entire Board of Directors extends a sincere and humble thank you to all the staff who dedicate themselves to making a distinct and lasting impact on kids' lives. The commitment and grace that define the culture of Youth Homes is a direct reflection of the 160 employees who show up every day to change kids' lives.

We look forward to continuing to fulfill our mission and to gaining an even deeper understanding of the youth and families we serve. Thank you for your generous support and continued commitment to Youth Homes. We look forward to another successful year of caring for kids and families in Western Montana.

Sincerely,



Dori Johnston and Pat Corrick
Co-Presidents of the Board

Youth Homes began forty years ago as part of a nationwide movement to change how we served “troubled” youth... moving away from institutional care to community-based alternatives. For Youth Homes it meant group homes staffed by live-in houseparents. Since then, things have changed. But what has not changed is our commitment to being “community based,” and what that meant then is the same as it means today.

Being “community-based” means reflecting the community’s demands – what they think is right and appropriate. Within the community, the customers of Youth Homes must be right, and our customers are varied – certainly the agencies that place with and pay for the youth we serve are major customers. But so are our supporters who pay for the extra mile. And so must be the youth we serve and, increasingly, their families who have taken a stronger role in directing the care and treatment of their children. And finally, we are driven by research-based best practices and a national movement toward family preservation over all else.

This past year has been a year of change, driven by these forces. It resulted in even stronger efforts to focus on kids graduating from high school. It meant seeking sympathetic and effective employers for our older youth to enter the employment market with a positive experience. It meant another successful year at our North Avenue Youth Farm. It meant continuing efforts to improve our cultural competence and in particular, our work with children of color. It meant engaging families when their kids are in our care and all working harder than ever to define an effective relationship between birthparents and their child whether the family is to be reunited or be involved as others raise their child. It meant expanding our in-home and family support efforts by adding in-home therapists, an outpatient counseling



SEE **ED** ON PAGE 6

OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FINANCIAL INFORMATION - Fiscal Year 2011

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		FISCAL 2011	FISCAL 2010
ASSETS			
Cash		\$658,808	\$692,226
Investments		\$1,027,734	\$785,863
Other Current Assets		\$337,517	\$389,240
Long Term Assets		\$2,047,388	\$2,186,997
Endowment		\$183,747	\$155,561
TOTAL ASSETS		\$4,255,194	\$4,209,887
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities		\$461,923	\$494,407
Long-term Liabilities		\$418,888	\$539,277
	Total Liabilities	\$880,811	\$1,033,684
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted		\$3,192,566	\$2,998,434
Temporarily Restricted		\$58,890	\$54,842
Permanently Restricted		\$122,927	\$122,927
	Total Net Assets	\$3,374,383	\$3,176,203
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		\$4,255,194	\$4,209,887
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011		FISCAL 2011	FISCAL 2010
REVENUE			
Donations		\$634,951	\$520,289
Grant Revenues		\$403,239	\$303,521
Contract Services		\$3,568,639	\$3,807,672
Reimbursement & Rental Income		\$178,852	\$176,543
Dividends and Interest Income		\$36,857	\$29,667
Gain on Disposal of Fixed Asset		\$13,460	\$ -
Realized & Unrealized Gain on Investments		\$144,272	\$86,159
TOTAL REVENUES		\$4,980,270	\$4,923,851
EXPENSES			
Program Support		\$4,029,083	\$4,168,943
Fundraising Expenses		\$164,005	\$147,627
Administrative Costs		\$589,002	\$595,300
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$4,782,090	\$4,911,870
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR		\$198,180	\$11,981

CARE DATA
FISCAL YEAR 2011

FLATHEAD YOUTH HOME	106
BITTERROOT YOUTH HOME	50
SHIRLEY MILLER ATTENTION HOME	116
DAN FOX FOSTER CARE SERVICES	60
DAN FOX IN HOME SERVICES	100
DAN FOX TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT	19
GROUP & TREATMENT HOMES	39
INNERROADS WILDERNESS TREATMENT	18
YOUTH HOMES TOTAL	508

5	PFC FOSTER CARE SERVICES
27	PFC IN HOME SERVICES
20	PFC THERAPEUTIC GROUP CARE
52	PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN TOTAL



TOTAL YOUTH SERVED - 560

OUR DONORS - FISCAL YEAR 2011

(July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011)

\$10,000 AND OVER - BENEFACTOR

Gallagher Western Montana Charitable Foundation, High Stakes Foundation, Llewellyn Foundation, Montana Rail Link, Oro Y Plata Foundation, Sloan Foundation, The Charles Engelhard Foundation, The Sample Foundation, Inc., United Way of Missoula County, United Way of the Flathead

\$5,000-\$9,999 - SUSTAINER

First Interstate Bancsystem Foundation, First Interstate Bank of Missoula, Kalispell Daybreak Rotary, Northwest Montana Human Resources, Susan and Roy O'Connor, Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program

\$2,500-\$4,999 - PATRON

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\$1,000-\$2,499 - PLATINUM

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\$500-\$999 - GOLD

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ret Tonon, Washington Business Services, Western Title & Escrow, Zach Cheetham, Whitefish Community Foundation – Carol and Richard Atkinson Fund, Whitefish Community Foundation – Kramer Family Fund

\$250 - \$499 - SILVER

Adventure Lawn & Home Care, Alice and Richard Dailey, All Saints' Episcopal Church, Allisun and Nick Jensen, Alltel Corporation, Angie and Paul Tranel, Awin Management Inc. C/O Allied Waste North America Inc., Betty Winchell, Blake and Caryn Ludwig, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana, Bob Boland, Bohyer, Simpson & Tranel, PC, Brown County United Way, Buckley Builders, Inc., Butte Lodge #22, Catholic Ladies of the St. Francis Church, Charles Bingham, Cheryl Dooley, Christine and Michael Caldwell, Chuck's Grinding, Inc., Corvallis United Methodist Men's Group, Craig and Ellen Langel, Craig Hurlbert, Darla Keck, Darlene and Ed Timmerhoff, Darlene Mikkola, David and Erika Sandler, David and Shirley Atkins, David Boring, Deacons of the Presbyterian Church – Kalispell, Denise and Roy Zimmer, Don and Karla Johnston, Donald Johnson, Dorleen and Phil Bakke, Dr. Fred and Diane Bodholt, Elizabeth Evans, Erik and Katie Schliebe, First Interstate Bank of Billings, First Presbyterian Church – Kalispell, First Security Bank, Garlington, Lohn, & Robinson, Hamilton High School Booster Club, Hamilton Physical Therapy & Sports Rehabilitation Center, Haskill Millworks, Heather and Andy Wilcox, Hungry Horse Liquor Store, In Mocean, James and Barbara Madden, James G. & Marcia Valeo Charitable Foundation, James Hoag, Jane Kisselbach, Jean Bowman, Jim and Lynn Heydon, Judy and Tim Sather, Judy Wing, Julie and Craig Birgenheier, Kalispell Regional Medical Center, Katherine and Ronald Messer, Kathleen O'Reilly, Kelly Rio, Kevin Miltko, D.D.S., Kiwanis Club of Grant Creek, Kristen Sohlberg, Lambros Community Foundation, Land Lindbergh, Larissa Gore, Les Schwab Tire Center, Linda Pijon, Lora O'Connor, Maggie and Mick Turner, Mark Everen, Marketplace Media, Marvie and Roland Redmond, Michael Hudson, Michael Small and Deborah Allard, Michelle Sanchez, Micki Frederikson, Mike and Chris Parnell, Mildenberger Motors, Mimi and Len Sauer, Mimi and Mark Jergens, Missoula Pediatric Dentistry, Missoula Snowgoers, Montana Academy, Montana Center for Laser Dentistry, Myles and Bethany Morris, Nancy and Bill DeCou, Nancy Cook, Nicole Marshall, Northwest Imaging, Northwestern Energy, Order of the Eastern Star Leona Chapter #31, Patricia Rouse, Phil and Julie Gardner, Ravalli County Bank, Richard and Anne Weber, Rick and Mary Borden, River Design Group, Roger Barth, S.G. Long & Co., Scott and Julee Stearns, Stephen and Kim Powell, Stephen Nix, Stevensville United Methodist Church, Stillwater Sod, Tammy and Jim Mocabee, The Toggery, Torrent Technologies, Valerie Hedquist, Wasabi Sushi Bar, Weber Greiser and Mary Langenderfer, Wendy and Brian Blevins, Wendy Wing and Mark Kathrein, Whitefish Physical Therapy and Sports Rehab

We greatly appreciate every gift given, but due to space in this Annual Report, we are only able to list our donors of \$250 or more. If you would like to see all of our donors for Fiscal Year 2011, please visit www.youthhomes.com. Thank you! If we missed you, please let us know. 406.721.2704

YOUR GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

BY
RAMEY KODADEK,
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



RAMEY KODADEK

When you make a gift to Youth Homes, your donation supports the care of the 160 kids we proudly serve in our programs across Western Montana. Each of these youth has his or her individual story, but they are all commonly united by pain, abuse, neglect, abandonment, chemical dependency, sadness, fear and the desperate hope for their lives to get better.

Your gift means that our staff can take 17-year-old Stacy shopping for new clothes she badly needs during her first week of placement in a therapeutic group home. These new clothes help Stacy feel supported by the community she lives in and by people who don't know her, but care enough about her to donate money so she can have clean, new clothing that fits. The clothing Stacy gets is really a symbol for what's to come during her time at Youth Homes; learning people care about her, building self confidence and feeling better about herself, doing the incredibly challenging work of facing her issues head on in order to make positive change and finally, leaving Youth Homes as a healthy, happy young adult.

No matter how you support Youth Homes—making an annual gift, joining our monthly Times12 Program, supporting a runner on the Run 4 Kids Team, attending our Annual Summer Party, donating during the holidays or contributing to our Special Needs and Activities Fund—you are helping kids like Stacy every day. Your support funds our kids' dreams, gives them access to opportunities, provides funding for our staff to spend individual time with a youth to develop a relationship, and helps us build and maintain our homes. Your donation supports all the kids in our care, but to us the story of your gift is told by helping one child at a time.



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program for youth, families and parents (we absorbed services and some staff of the Friends to Youth organization) and moving toward a wrap-around approach (advocated by the State Children's Mental Health Bureau) where family support is tailored to the unique needs of the particular family.

All of this means that we are dependent on a talented, experienced and caring staff, and thank goodness we have one. It's been a year of change, but the two things that have not changed are doing what we do within the fabric of the community our service is located, and making every effort to be better this year and knowing we want to be better next year. It's been a good year and tomorrow will be better!

Thank you for what you have done to support us financially and emotionally.



Geoffrey L. Birnbaum
Executive Director

OUR KIDS

COREY

Corey's mother struggled with chemical dependency issues. His father wasn't around. Corey hung out with the older kids in the neighborhood and began to get in trouble. He ran away, got into fights and stole things. But Corey's mother worked hard to provide a stable home and meet Corey's needs as she struggled with her own issues. They had some success and more than their share of difficulties.

His mother died unexpectedly when he was 12, and any sense of stability and security he felt evaporated. His stress and anxiety, as well as the behavior associated with it, grew. His grandmother tried to provide a home for Corey and his older brother, but she worked fulltime in the evenings, and predictably, Corey's acting out behavior became more frequent and severe. While under court supervision, Corey ran away again and was placed in detention. His grandmother sadly concluded that until Corey's needs or her ability to care for him changed, she could not provide the structure and supervision he required.

Corey came to the Shirley Miller Attention home and was able, for the first time in his life, to just be a kid. At times, the enormity of the situation he faced came into focus for him and he struggled seeing a way out. However, for the majority of the time, his greatest concern was that someone watches him perform gymnastics or listen to his latest comic performance. He is a child of many talents, always laughing and with remarkable athletic skill. The Youth Homes Special Activities program allowed him to participate and excel in a formal gymnastic training program.

His short time at the Attention Home was not only a time to experience childhood, it was also an opportunity to demonstrate his potential if given a stable, structured environment. Corey displayed the ability to use more appropriate coping skills. His court issues were resolved and a foster family was found to provide a more permanent place to live.

He still calls the A-Home to invite us to watch him at gymnastics class, and we enjoy hearing of his accomplishments.



Michael was one of those referrals to the Flathead Youth Home that sends up red flags for the staff. He had lived in 33 different places during his 14 years, had a history of being impulsive and explosive, and his case plan was a vague hope for foster home placement. Even knowing this history, we decided to accept Michael into our shelter care program. After a week, the placing worker requested a longer stay to help Michael continue to stabilize during his transition and to allow him finish his first semester of high school.

MICHAEL

I am glad Michael was given this opportunity, as he could always make people smile and his general enthusiasm about activities was infectious. He usually described his days as “awesome” and his abilities “ninja like.” Michael was able to reconnect with old friends from prior group home placements and life was generally good.



Like many youth who have moved multiple times, Michael pushed the people who cared for him away before he moved to the next place. Prior to meeting his new foster parent, he was filled with anxiety and, lacking the words to express it, put his fist through his bedroom wall and yelled obscenities at staff. Staff reacted with patience and compassion while he worked through his emotions for several nights.

Michael met his foster parent and was instantly relieved to find out she was a distant family relation. He spent several weekends with her before moving and would come back to FYH each time saying his weekend was “awesome.” Learning to transition to a new home in an orderly manner and say goodbye to people he cared for in a healthy way was a major accomplishment for this young man. Such accomplishments are some of the many reasons why our staff is proud to be part of FYH and of so many youngster’s lives.

KYLE & ANTHONY

Anthony and his brother Kyle grew up in a household filled with domestic violence and substance abuse by their parents. The family moved frequently, many times never staying in one place longer than a year. They often got their meals from homeless shelters and many times, Anthony was left alone to watch over his infant brother Kyle.

Because of the neglect and abuse, the children were removed from their home in 2007 and placed into foster care. Kyle and Anthony were in two foster care homes before being placed with a Dan Fox Family Care Program family, the Petersons.

The Petersons had one biological child and wanted a larger family, but didn’t want to have additional children of their own. They felt that there were enough children in the community who were in need of a safe, loving home, which they could provide. They approached Dan Fox about adopting one child, but when Kyle and Anthony became available, they were excited about the prospect of adopting two boys.

Initially, the placement had its challenges. Both boys had difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep when they arrived in the home. Kyle was accustomed to eating only junk food, so he didn’t want to eat the healthy food the Petersons gave him. He also was indiscriminate in his attachments and would gravitate toward strangers in public places. He struggled in preschool with following rules and listening to the teachers.

Anthony was distant and cautious about the placement. He blamed himself for the removal from his biological family and for the prior foster care placements. Because of this, he had difficulty opening up and trusting his new family. He also came into the home wanting to serve as Kyle’s parent, as he had been responsible for Kyle growing up. The family began seeing a therapist so Anthony could understand that the Petersons could parent Kyle without Anthony’s help.

Kyle and Anthony finally have adults in their lives they can trust. With support from the Dan Fox staff, they are in a family that is nurturing, patient and responsive to their needs so they can recover and heal from their difficult past. As Anthony is quick to point out, the boys were not only adopted by the Petersons, but by the Petersons’ extended family, including numerous cousins around the same ages as the brothers.

Anthony is excelling in school, achieving mostly A’s and B’s. He is well liked by his teachers, has many friends and is an active 11 year old, playing football and basketball. Kyle is a sweet, caring and thoughtful five year old who loves to spend time with his new family and who’s much more cautious of strangers. The boys’ adoption was finalized in 2011 with the entire family present. During the ceremony, Anthony leaned down, took Kyle’s hand in his and whispered “Kyle, we’re almost home.” They most certainly are.





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KIDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Jordan is from Livingston, Montana. When his parents divorced, he mourned the separation of his family and began to make poor choices as a result. One of his middle school teachers described him as the angriest kid she had ever taught.

JORDAN



Jordan's troubles intensified and he dropped out of school his freshman year. He then entered the juvenile justice system and was eventually placed into the Tom Roy Youth Guidance Home when he was 17.

Upon placement into the "Roy Home" Jordan decided he wanted to change his life. He enrolled in the GED preparation program at Emma Dickinson Lifelong Learning Center and spent six months studying for his test. Jordan passed the GED exam with high scores. This was no small feat for a young man who basically had an eighth-grade education.

While living in the home, Jordan also worked at the North Avenue Youth Farm. He took an immediate interest in the farm and learned about the complete planting and harvesting process, often suggesting ways in which work could be done more efficiently.

Jordan enrolled in the University of Montana's College of Technology this fall and graduated from the Roy Home in December. He saved money while living in the home and was able to move into his first apartment with roommates. Jordan is "interested in a bunch of stuff" and is enjoying college and living on his own.

Jordan continues to have a relationship with staff at the Roy Home, especially his primary worker Tim, who Jordan says, "was there for me no matter what." Jordan values the life skills he learned at the home – grocery shopping on a budget, cooking healthy meals, managing bank accounts and hunting for a job. Coming to the home was a fresh start for Jordan and a way to leave his old destructive behaviors behind. "It was a great program. I wouldn't be where I am today without them."

