



▶ CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER PROVIDED SERVICES TO OVER 2500 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.



▶ FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF CHILDREN EXPERIENCE SERIOUS MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT IMPACT THEIR ABILITY TO FUNCTION IN THE HOME, SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY



▶ FOR AGES 10 TO 14, SUICIDE IS THE 2ND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH BEHIND UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES. FOR AGES 15 TO 19, SUICIDE IS THE 3RD LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH.

Child Guidance Center of Greater Bridgeport

Annual Report

2008

Executive Summary

2008 was a year of many advances and changes in the area of children's behavioral health. We commenced the year by implementing an Electronic Medical Record System called 'Anasazi' that will position the agency well for recordkeeping compliance and allow staff easy and quick access to their clients' records.

Although the Department of Social Services initiated an extensive audit of our Medicaid billing, the agency did extremely well.

In order to address rapid access to outpatient counseling services, the agency restructured and centralized its admissions procedures so that families would be offered an appointment within fourteen days of requesting treatment. As a result of being able to see more children in a more timely manner, the agency was designated an 'Enhanced Care Clinic' and given a higher reimbursement rate.

Mental health reform also impacted our Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Service (EMPS). The agency applied for and was awarded a grant by DCF to become the regional provider of children's crisis services for all of Fairfield County.

After the five year Federal Park

Project grant expired, the agency was able to continue to offer school-based care coordination services to children with serious mental health needs via a grant from DCF.

Finally, in 2008, the Child Guidance Center applied for and was awarded a grant to work with the parents and the entire Bridgeport provider community to initiate and promote a "Wraparound" approach to working with the families. The goal of Wraparound is to address the needs of **all** family members with **one** comprehensive service plan that would involve the cooperation of multiple agencies.

These accomplishments could not have been conceived, let alone achieved, without the support and involvement of our dedicated staff and Board of Directors. The Board has been the backbone of the agency, providing guidance via its three-year Strategic Growth Plan and its support of our fundraising activities. The staff has risen to every challenge presented them, from instituting electronic records to changes in operating procedures.

Overall, 2008 was a challenging yet positive year.

L. Philip Guzman, Ph.D.
President/CEO



**"HELPING KIDS TODAY FOR
A BETTER TOMORROW"**

The above statement is the new tag line of the agency that succinctly captures the essence and purpose of the agency. Our goal is to help children now so that they can have a better and happier life, and then pass that on to their children. Thus, impacting generations to come.



Getting the most services for the dollar

Ninety-five percent (95%) of every dollar goes into direct service...

<u>RESOURCE ALLOCATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Program & Services	\$ 7,018,153	94.94%
Administration & General	\$ 334,052	4.52%
Fundraising	\$ 39,911	0.54%
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$ 7,392,116	100.00%

Preliminary 2008 calculations

Program Achievements

During 2008 the various programs and services of the agency accomplished the following tasks and achievements:

- *Foster Grandparents program participated in the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County's "Schools of Hope" initiative by placing seniors to work with children in designated schools in Bridgeport, Fairfield and Stratford .*
- *Multisystemic Therapy (MST) program received statewide recognition for achieving the highest adherence score for providing services that were most closely aligned to the MST principals and philosophy than any other MST program in CT.*
- *The program director of our Nurturing Families Network program testified before the Legislature's 'Committee on Children' in support of additional funding for Bridgeport.*
- *Grandparents from the Parenting Academy program visited Hartford to speak to Legislators about the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren.*
- *Staff from the agency sponsored a 'Bingo Night' to raise funds for holiday gifts for our clients.*
- *Outpatient Mental Health program initiated a new service for sexually reactive children.*
- *The Parent Enrichment Program (PEP) dedicated the Child Guidance Food Pantry in the memory of Sister Milagros Esteban, a former Parent Aide. The ceremony was attended by staff and nuns from the Sisters of Notre Dame.*
- *Psychiatric services were expanded with the addition of Dr. Michele Feinberg who was a Child and Adolescent Fellow at the Institute of Living in Hartford.*
- *Strategic Intervention for High Risk Youth (SIHRY) exercised their entrepreneurial spirit by holding a car wash at Child Guidance and raised \$1,200 to pay for their summer activities.*
- *The Intensive Safety Planning (ISP) program that works with parents to address safety factors that would hasten the return of their children to the home was noted as having the highest rate of referrals in the State.*



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