

Affirmation. Empowerment. Sanctuary.

COMMUNITY
FAMILY LIFE
SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT
2009



"It was the best of times, it was the worse of times"

—A TALE OF TWO CITIES BY CHARLES DICKENS



LEADERSHIP IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES

As we think about our 2009 message to you our loyal donors and volunteers, the first thing that comes to mind is how proud and honored we are to be a part of Community Family Life Services. It is an exceptional institution doing tremendous work in an economic environment that is a challenge to so many. More than ever before the services we provide, particularly in this climate, to our families—children, women and men—are greatly needed. It is our institution, combined with other service groups, that makes a difference to the homeless and those living in poverty as they are challenged to live with dignity. We are indeed proud to be counted among you as one of many who care deeply about this community. It gives us great pleasure to work together with all of you to serve and support vulnerable children and adults.

Fiscal year 2009 has been perhaps the most onerous since the Great Depression. It has been decades since we last saw welfare roles and the unemployment lines swell as they have and so quickly over these last 18 months. And with it more and more individuals and families finding themselves not able to provide for the most basic of needs—housing and as a consequence they are living on the streets and in poverty stricken conditions.

During 2009 CFLS became the stabilizer for many individuals and families in distress. CFLS provided comprehensive services for more than 3000 people living in our community, from infants to the elders. These services included 89 units of housing and housing support services to those in need; support for 115 children living in under resourced communities to enable them to grow academically, socially and emotionally at a time when the world around them had turned upside down; support for more than 100 chronically unemployed persons searching for employment; and more than 500 units of emergency services monthly to people walking in from off the street.

The challenge to all of us that serve Community Family Life Services—as stewards of all kind, from volunteers to donors to trustees—is to lead, now more than ever by taking off our gloves and putting our uncovered hands into the mix, walking to raise money for the homeless services we provide, packing backpacks for children and young adults equipping them with the tools they need to be successful in the classroom and beyond and equipping those living in poverty with the right tools to find and keep employment. The leadership challenge is to identify and implement ways to lift those who need it most towards economic and social self-sufficiency. We hope each of you will accept the challenge. We can do it as long as we work together and take one step at a time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Thorne".

Claudia Thorne, *Executive Director*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Hines".

Jim Hines, *Board Chair*

CFLS Achievements

FY2008-2009:

- **PROVIDED housing and housing services** for individuals and families:
 - Provided 89 units of transitional and permanent housing;
 - Transitional to Permanent Housing Programs for 19 families with 70% of families reporting an increase in income and 100% moving to permanent housing;
 - CFLS' Trinity Arms Transitional Housing Program ranks # 14 of 60 Transitional and Permanent Housing Programs in DC;
 - Housing case management for 45 persons living with HIV;
- **PROVIDED supportive services** to 115 children including case management, counseling and education; provided housing, tutoring and/or advocacy;
- **ENROLLED 35 children** in the academic based afterschool program and **50 children** signed up for the summer enrichment programs with 92 % of children in this program reporting an increase in academic performance;
- **PROVIDED employability development and job placement** for 102 chronically unemployed persons through CFLS' Employment Development and Placement Services;
- **PROVIDED walk-in emergency food and clothing** to 2500 persons annually; and operated a volunteer component logging 8056 hours of volunteer services;
- **PROVIDED breakfast** to an average of 75 homeless individuals monthly;
- **DISTRIBUTED toys to 300 Families** during the Christmas Toy Drive.

*“Plan purposefully,
pray prayerfully,
proceed positively,
pursue persistently.”*

—WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD



Trinity Arms

COMMUNITY FAMILY LIFE SERVICES FLAG-SHIP TWO-YEAR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

17 FAMILIES Trinity Arms helps families move from homelessness into permanent housing. Providing 17 units of housing for families and individuals in transition Trinity Arms is ranked 14th out of 60 such programs in Washington DC. All residents at Trinity Arms receive life-skills education, individualized case management, and supportive counseling. A recent graduate of the program shares what she now knows after her two years with CFLS.

FROM HOMELESS TO PROGRAM ASSISTANT (WHAT I KNOW)

Having spent 2 years at CFLS as a resident of Trinity Arms Transition Housing Program, I was given a stable home, regular support group and one-on-one counseling that allowed me to openly and freely discuss the many factors that brought about my being homeless. During my stay I learned that if you have a foundation of belief in who you are and know what you stand for, that belief still lives under the debris that life often piles upon you. I have

*learned that my dreams may have temporary setbacks but I can revive them any day, any time and anywhere if I give that belief just a little concentration each day. **I have learned that I am a survivor.** Betty is currently working as Program Assistant at CFLS.*



“The Family is one of nature’s masterpieces.”

—GEORGE SANTAYANA

CFLS Afterschool and Summer Camp



A NEW BEGINNING

35 YOUTH AFTERSCHOOL; 50 YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

Community Family Life Services Afterschool Academic Enrichment and Positive Youth Development Program has a new home. Last year, the program which serves low-income families in wards 6, 7 & 8 left its home at CFLS administrative offices and relocated to Leckie Elementary in SE. While we miss the energy and exuberance of the young participants — the program is excelling at its new location. Under the leadership of Director Keon Drake the program serves 35 students daily and has attracted many new partners including the Levin School of Music and the Shakespeare Theatre Company. Students continue to benefit from the programs high quality academic tutoring and mentoring components. 3rd Grader Malika and her mother are very excited about her being in the program, she says, *“I really enjoy all the activities in afterschool. I learn new skills that gives me confidence and helps me to be a better student.”*

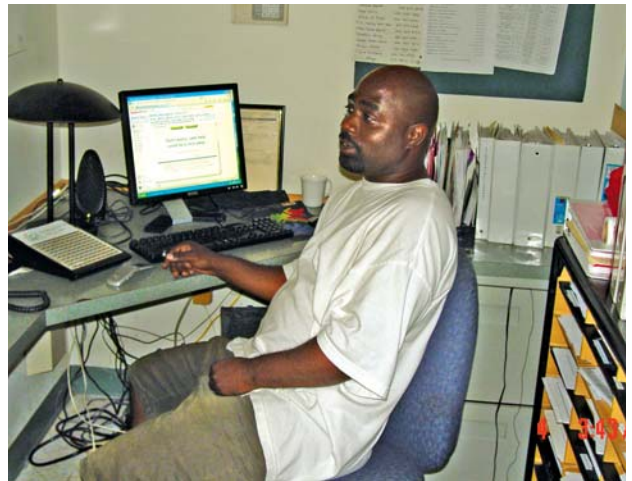
“Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education”.

—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR



*Affirmation
Empowerment
Sanctuary*

Job Training and Development



CFLS JUMP STARTS TO EMPLOYMENT

102 INDIVIDUALS On March 19th, 2009, Community Family Life Services had a unique opportunity to be represented before the Council of the District of Columbia by a former participant in our Partners in Prosperity job training program. Mr. Anthony Tate was asked to present his story to the Committee on Housing and Workforce Development as a testament to the impact the Partners in Prosperity program had in his life.

Upon graduation from the training program Mr. Tate started his job search and was supported by CFLS staff. He told the council, *"They (CFLS) helped me believe that I have something to offer."*

He was soon placed at the Carl Vogel Center as an HIV/AIDS outreach counselor. With his new employment Mr. Tate says that he is able to see a purpose to his life. Through CFLS's Partners in Prosperity job training program, Mr. Tate has not just found a job; he has found a life calling. As he told the council, "I am grateful for all those who have entered my life and I hope that my dedication towards prevention will assist the lives of those I come in contact with in the future."

CFLS provided employability development and job placement for 102 chronically unemployed persons through this program.

"Work is love made visible."
—KAHLIL GIBRAN

Paying it Forward

MILESTONE

35 RESIDENTS Maurice B. arrived at Milestone determined to achieve his goals. There he found stability and received much needed support. He began volunteering at a substance abuse treatment facility for homeless males in the District of Columbia and quickly obtained full-time employment as a night monitor. With the support of CFLS staff he was able to build a substantial amount of savings and move into a fair market valued apartment. Maurice says *“CFLS helped me rebuild my life and showed me how to give back to the community even when I didn’t have much.”* Maurice achieved his goals and continues to send referrals to Milestone to support other homeless singles in need of supportive housing.



HIV HOUSING CASE MANAGEMENT

45 RESIDENTS Michael was diagnosed with HIV in 1985. An accomplished artist, he was unable to work due to major fatigue related to HIV and he had challenges in maintaining stable housing. Community Family Life Services was able to support Michael in obtaining housing as well as meeting other supportive services needs. As of today, he has resumed his work as an artist and he is living comfortably in his apartment.



“I keep going forward because I believe a better future lies ahead.”

—CHRIS GARDNER,
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS



Family-to-Family Mentoring

IN HER OWN WORDS — IT WORKS!

35 FAMILIES *I must say that when mentoring was first offered, I was a little apprehensive not knowing who my mentor was going to be, their ideals on life, and how they would relate to me. After being asked a few times to join, I finally decided to see how the program could benefit me and the progression of my personal goals. Now that I am a “mentee”, I am very pleased with the relationship and support I have gained with my mentor. What I like most is that her ideals are relatable to my beliefs and she encourages what I want to accomplish in life. She has given me tools to help me deal with daily obstacles,*

*guidance (the most important characteristic I looked for in a mentor), and helping me to prepare when accomplishing my goals. **I am very pleased with the program and feel that all women can benefit from having a mentor or someone who has similar experiences and goals. Life is not easy when you are traveling alone but with the help of others, it makes it a little easier!***



Kiara and her daughter Jasmine have participated in the mentor program since it began. Mentors provide support and encouragement to help families achieve their dreams.

“Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and help them become what they are capable of being.”

—GOETHE

Walk-a-thon

A SUCCESSFUL SEASON!

1100 WALKERS CFLS would like to thank all our friends and supporters for supporting our participation in the Annual Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon. We would like to acknowledge the many schools that organized mini-walks on our behalf as well as the corporations who partnered with us.



“Do not wait for leaders, do it alone, person to person.”

—MOTHER TERESA



*Affirmation
Empowerment
Sanctuary*

CFLS Gala 2009

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Our 40th Anniversary Gala and Silent Auction, “Honoring Our Founders,” was held on April 29, 2009, at the Organization of American States. More than 200 persons were in attendance to celebrate with Honorary Gala Chair, **Marie Johns** and the Mistress of Ceremonies, **Courtney Robinson of ABC7/WJLA TV**. The Gala was an opportunity for Community Family Life Services, in all of its diversity among clients, staff, members, volunteers and supporters — to collectively celebrate transformation, growth, and perseverance, not just only among those we are honored to serve, but also among ourselves.



*“The more you praise
and celebrate your life,
the more there is in life
to celebrate.”*

—OPRAH WINFREY

