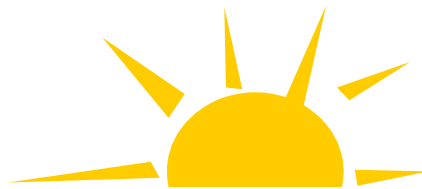




Annual Report

2003 - 2004



The Power of Choice!

2121 Noblestown Road, Suite 100 • Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Website: www.circlec.net • E-mail: info@circlec.net
Phone: (412) 937-1605 • Fax (412) 937-1236

Mission Statement

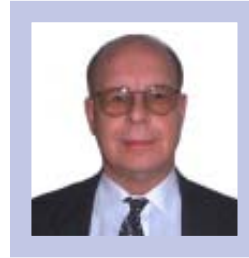
Building on a long-standing tradition, Circle C Youth and Family Services provides a safe environment and therapeutic relationships for children and families at risk. With a focus on strengths, we are committed to assisting children and their families in building solid foundations and supports within their own family and the community. Our goal is to instill personal growth and positive values and achieve permanency for each child.

“The Power of Choice...”

In late October and early November, the airwaves were filled with political messages, urging us to exercise our right and responsibility to vote. Prior to 1972, approximately 70% of all eligible voters came out to the polls and exercised their right to make a choice about who would be their leaders. In 1972, the official voting age was lowered from age 21 to 18 and the percentage dropped dramatically. Recently a particular talk show reminded us that during the last presidential election, only 50% of the people who were eligible actually voted. When exercising their right to vote many young adults often make the choice not to vote – which is, of course, a choice!



diligently to ensure they learn more about the resources available to assist them in their lives. We introduce them to new people, programs, and daily responsibilities that will provide a positive influence. We connect them with community resources to provide the necessary tools to make positive choices – to stay away from drugs and alcohol, to control their behavior, and to get the most from their education and/or vocational training. We provide children and families with new ways of looking at themselves, their situations, and their future. We offer the support they need to make good choices and to succeed.



Every day at Circle C, we see the results of choices. Youth often arrive at our programs as a result of poor decision making – skipping school, running away, shoplifting, or acting out their feelings in ways that got them into trouble. Some youth are with us because they’ve decided to leave an abusive or dangerous situation at home. Others arrive wondering what they could have done differently to avoid being “sent away” by the judge.

However a child comes to us, many of them seem to have a common thread; they are unaware that they have any real choices regarding the path they are taking in life, and the impact that both their positive and negative choices will have on their futures. Kids can spend a lot of time and energy looking for what they need in the wrong places! At Circle C we work

Progress doesn’t often happen without significant pain and struggle. It hurts when we see kids revert to old ways, and suffer consequences that are all too familiar. But we also celebrate when kids discover that they are capable of learning new skills and using new resources. We’re thrilled to see them experience – sometimes for the first time – the rewards of hard work, discipline and teamwork.

As we move into a new year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends of Circle C for *your* choice of generous support and partnership during the past year and to invite you to continue your participation and partnership in the years to come. Together we’ll continue to provide new and positive options for children, and offer them the choice of a brighter future.

Richard T. Knouff

Richard T. Knouff, L.S.W.
Executive Director

Joseph R. Hiznay

Joseph R. Hiznay
Board President

Financial Statements

July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

Revenues

Child Care Fees	\$1,913,015
General Contributions	73,850
Private Grants	118,074
Public Grants	87,969
Other	9,304
	\$2,202,805

Expenses

Group Home Programs (4)	\$1,522,960
Foster Care Program	296,721
Administrative Costs	292,680
Fundraising Costs	81,965
	\$2,194,919

Change in Net Assets \$7,886.

Audited financial statements are available for review at the administrative office.

Clients Served

Carrick Group Home	22
Oasis Group Home	28
Patak Group Home	22
Euclid Group Home	14
Designated Family Program	28
	114

Countries of Origin

Allegheny County	96%
Pittsburgh – 50%	
Non-City – 50%	
Westmoreland County	4%
	100%

Race

Caucasian	28%
African American	67%
Bi-Racial	5%

Age

0–6 years	14%
7–12 years	07%
8–13 years	79%

Gender

Group Home	Males	67%
	Females	33%
Foster Care	Males	50%
	Females	50%

Licenses

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations

Affiliations

West End I-Net
The HealthNet Project
Conference of Allegheny Providers
The Outcomes Collaborative
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services

Thank You!!

...to all of our donors who supported our mission to serve children and families in Western Pennsylvania from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. If we have missed you, let us know by calling (412) 937-1650 Extension 224. Please be assured that your generosity is very much appreciated!

Businesses

AAA East Central
Adrienne's Hair Design
Allegheny General Hospital
Patient Financial Services
American Eagle Outfitters
Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant
Avalon Community Pharmacy
B & D Manufacturing
Baker & Taylor, Inc.
Bellevue Vision
Beverly's Flowers
Bortech Corporation
Bradley's Books
Bravo Cucina Italiana
Bravo Franco Ristorante
Buckler & Associates, Inc.
Chili's Restaurant
- West Mifflin
Chili's Restaurant
- McKnight Road
Chili's Restaurant- Monroeville
Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania
Collins & Ganley, P.C.
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania
Consolidated Graphic
Communications
Cool Springs Golf Center
CVS Pharmacy
D & D Legal Services
Delallos Fort Couch Cafe
Delucca's Restaurant
DePasqua Chiropractic
Design Basics
Dowe's on 9th
Duquesne University
Electrifiers
Entertainment Office
Fortune's Coffee Roastery
Four Points Sheraton
- Pittsburgh Airport
Fox Run Golf Course
Gateway Clipper Fleet
West View Giant Eagle Store
Gillece Plumbing
H. B. Maynard & Company
Hanchak & Pratt
Hard Rock Cafe
Heinz North America
Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh
Holiday Inn - Beaver Falls
Holiday Inn - Greentree
Home Depot
Hospital Council of
Western Pennsylvania
How To Advertise Specialties
Robert Morris University
Island Sports Center
J. B. Kreider Company, Inc.
Jamie's on the Square
Jimmy G's
Journeys of Life
Klavon's Ice Cream Parlor
Koppers, Inc.
Korean & Associates
La Fond Galleries
La Pomponnee Day Spa
LaPrima Espresso Company
Liberty Insurance Agency
Loews Cineplex Entertainment
Lynz-Energetics
Mathews Marble Manufacturing
McCarthy, McDonald,
& Shulberg & Joy
McDonalds Corporation
McDonalds Restaurant
Montour Heights Country Club
Northpointe Automotive
Olive Garden
Omni William Penn Hotel
Palermo/Kissingner & Associates
Perfection Printing
Pittsburgh Business Times
Pittsburgh Pirates
Pittsburgh Steelers
Pittsburgh Symphony
Pittsburgh's Cathedral Hall
Pizza Hut
Platinum Gym

Prestogeorge Italian Foods
Quaker Capital Management
Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel
Rhythm House
Risk Management Resources
Robert Wholey & Co.
Rockwell Hair Designs
Roland's Seafood Grille
Shop n' Save Corporate Offices
South Hills Brewing Supply
Sports Rock Cafe
Stephen Szabo Salon
Stonecrest Golf Course
Suburban General Hospital
Sunseri & Company
Tara Charles Band
The Funny Bone
The Priory, A City Inn
This End Up Furniture
Trax Farms
Trenton Printing, LLC
Truffles & Flourishes
University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center Health Plan
Video Rental of PA Inc.
Westinghouse Electric Corp.
Westwood Golf Club
Wheel & Wedge
Wheeler Publishing Company
Wrights Seafood Inn
WYEP-FM

Churches

Chartiers Valley UP Church
Church of the Assumption
Comm. Presb. Church of Ben Avon
Metropolitan Baptist Church
Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church
Spencer United Methodist Church
United Methodist Women
St. Louise de Marillac Church
St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran
Church

Special Groups

Apartment Association of
Metropolitan Pittsburgh
Carnegie Mellon University
Career Center
Cub Scout Pack 210
CWA Local #13550
Western PA Toy Run

Foundations

Child Health Association
of Sewickley
Earl Knudsen Foundation
Grable Foundation
Matthews Educational &
Charitable Trust
McCune Foundation
McKinney Foundation
The Pittsburgh Foundation
PNC Charitable Trust
Rockwell Foundation
Sarah Heinz House
Staunton Farm Foundation
Westinghouse Charitable
Giving Program

Individuals

Earl Aaron
Deena Alansky
William Andrews
Jeffrey & Karen Arnold
Sue & Bruce Ashbaugh
Karen Ashby
Mary Kay Babyak
Carol & Pat Baird
Janet Barlett
Bruce Barnes
McEarl Baxter
Davida Beckner
Tom Belczyk
Rich & Cathy Bellisario
Dianne Bellisario
Lori Benson
Chris Blackwell
Dave & Erleen Boehmer
Steve & Jeanne Boehmer
Michael Bonacci
Leigh Boyer
William & Barbara Boyle
John Brennan
William Bresnahan
Adelia Brown
Dennetta Mae Burtoft
Helen Cahalane

Matt (19) is a young man who came to Circle C with few resources. As a mentally challenged young man with no family support, achievements were very difficult. Matt chose to stay at Circle C long past the time when he was eligible to leave. With that decision, he was able to complete an extended high school program for reading and life skills enrichment, get a full-time job at a silk-screening business, build a substantial nest egg, and establish his own apartment.

Ed & Gail Campbell	Bob & Pam Grandizio	Dave Leskanic	John & Eileen Ropar
Joel & Mary Campbell	Don Grazko	Darlene Lewis	Fred & Deborah Rubin
Elaine Carfagna	Bob & Ruth Greer	Barbara Lipscomb	Larry & Lori Ruppel
Kathy Carlson	Bob & Nancy Gustine	Bob Luczak	Frank & Sally Sabino
D. Scott Carter	Richard & Susan Haddad	Jeanne & Dennis Manko	Paul Schaner
Debbie Casaday	Tom Halley	Joseph Maola	Susan Scheuring
Leaette & Greg Cavaliere	James Hamilton, Jr.	Gabrielle Marshall	Cathleen Schmidt
Sal Cerchiaro	Harry & Jean Hamm	Harriet Marshman	Jim & Carol Schwarz
Lori Chase	Robert & Patricia Hammel	Mark Martens	Robert Seelnacht
Mark & Kathleen Christie	Carl Hanchak	John Masso	Mike & Nancy Seman
Roy & Mary Lou Clark	Margaret Hardt	Bill & Sylvia Maston	Deborah Simak
Janet Cleversy	Dave & Mary Harper	Deborah McCloskey	H. Melvin & Eloise Smith
Elliott Coleman	William Harris	Kent & Martha McElhattan	Helen Smith
Debra Tiller	Ray Hastings	Hope & William McGee	Catherine Smith
Coleman Conley	Brian Haughin	Donna McGovern	Maria & Michael Smith
John & Jeannette Creighan	Ken & Betty Haughin	Nancy McMillen	Rona Smith
Theresa Cress	Tom Hempel	Donald McPhillips	Carmella Somerville
Donald & Janet Cross	Jim Henderson	Gregory Merrick, MD	Arthur Spiegel
John & Suzanne Culkin	Jeff & Denise Henning	Linda Meyer	Alan & Carol Staab
Leah Cullen	Dave & Beth Henry	Deborah Michalik	Anne Stapor
Toni Danchik	Brenda Herring	Bryan Mikush	Lynn Steffan
Roger Davidson	Thelma Hibbard	George & Melissa Milligan	Kem Stevenson
Helen Marie DeCesare	Mike & Vivian Hines	Barbara Milsak	Chad Stockdale
Dan DeStefano, Jr.	Joseph Hiznay	Ted & Janet Molnar	Llew Strachan
Vincent Detore	Emil Hoffert	Mark & Kimberly Moore	Malcolm & Sandra Strachan
Darleen Dickson	Arlene Holliday	Howard & Edith Morgan	Tyrone Strothers
Eileen Dickson	Sharon Holliday	Dennis Morgret	Mary Kay Sullivan
Gerry Dinnen	Almeta Holmes	Mary Margaret Moulton	Marisa Telego
Peter Divito	John & Margaret Houston	Susan Munson-Bagnato	Matt Teresi
Marti Donovan	Magdalene Howsare	Patricia Murphy	Fred & Christine Thieman
Matt Dooley	Kathy Hupcej	Mari & Patrick Murphy	Barbara Thompson
Lew Doughton	Stephen Irwin	Joan Naumann	Marty Tiani
Thomas & Lori Dowling	John & Elizabeth Jablonski	John Netherland	Gregory Tot
Julie Dunay	Kennon Jeter	Patrick Niven	Lauren Trocano
Nikkii Durnic	Bill Johnson	Brian & Evelyn Novak	Susan Tymoczko
Peggy Edmunds	Scott Jones	Donna Ottoviani	Gail Ulrich
Reena Fabian	Nancy Jones	Elizabeth Palmer	Maria Vaccaro
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Barbara Ginsburg	JJ & Chrissy LaBella	Beverly Reinhart	Bruce Woyt
John Gladstone	Joseph & Debra Lachowicz	Nancy Replogle	Ann Zarenko
Susan Golomb	David Lackner	Bob Reppe	John & Jean Zora
Russ & Judy Gombos	Joseph Lagana	Jim Rhodes	
Tim & Joann Goodall	Chuck Lapp	Jeanne Rieber	
Judd & Gretchen Gordon	Tom & Susan Lause	Andrea Riesberg	
Bill & Regina Goyette		Michael Roeder	

Robert (17), a foster child, decided to apply for membership in the Business Academy at his high school. After completing a lengthy application process, he was thrilled to be chosen for admission. Robert responded with excellent attendance, grades and a positive attitude. Through the two-year process, he has learned “everything he ever wanted to know” about how to start and run a personal business. He hopes to use this knowledge to open a specialty coffeehouse in the near future.

Group Home Programs

Circle C's residential group home programs include the *Carrick House*, designed for younger adolescent boys (ages 13-15 years); the *Patak House*, which focuses on the needs of older adolescent boys (ages 15-18 years); the *Oasis House*, which offers treatment and life skills development to young women (ages 15-18 years), and the *Euclid Supervised Independent Living Program*, which provides life skills development to young men (ages 16-18 years) who have successfully completed other programs.



capabilities tremendously by responding to proposals for a variety of purposes, including: education enhancements, special child care needs, vacation trips, residents' clothing, new mattresses and dressers, computers, training, aid for "graduating" residents to get started in a place of their own, a new casemanagement position, group home renovations, including the new HVAC systems.

Circle C's summer programming went well, beginning with another challenging summer school experience. Thanks to the *National*

We've had more impressive renovations to the group homes over the past year. The Euclid living room and foyer has been renovated, and new carpeting has been installed in the living room at Oasis. New dressers and mattresses have been added to the bedrooms in each program. But the biggest improvement project now underway is the replacement of each



home's heating system with brand new high efficiency HVAC units! The Patak house was the first to be completed, replacing an aging boiler and radiators with two new furnaces and air-conditioners that provide for all four floors of Circle C's original group home. Kids and staff alike are looking forward to "year-round comfort!"

Grants were received during the 2003-04 fiscal year from the Child Health Association of Sewickley, Citizens Bank, Grable Foundation, Earl Knudsen Foundation, Matthews Educational and Charitable Trust, McCune Foundation, McKinney Foundation, The Pittsburgh Foundation, PNC Charitable Trust, Rockwell Foundation, Sarah Heinz House, Staunton Farm Foundation, and the Westinghouse Charitable Giving Program.

These partners enhanced Circle C's facilities and program

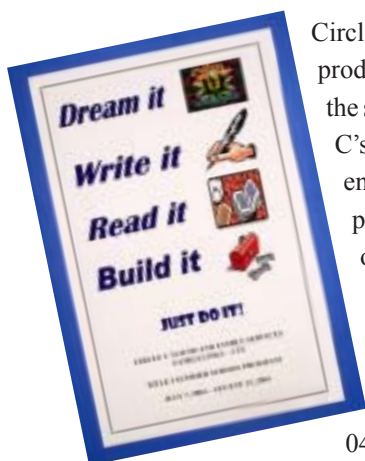
Robotics Engineering Consortium, students had hands-on experience building and programming their own robots with software developed at CMU's *Robotics Academy*. Students also learned about the electoral process by campaigning for student-body offices.

Group home residents and staff took vacations to New York City and Ocean City, Maryland, in addition to several destinations in western Pennsylvania and Ohio. Two residents from the Euclid program also had a terrific opportunity representing the state as delegates to the *Destination Future Conference* in Chevy Chase, Maryland, thanks to support from the *Pennsylvania Independent Living Project*, which is managed by the *University of Pittsburgh*. The conference brings together youth and adults from across the nation to network, problem solve, improve leadership skills, build partnerships, and learn about advocating for change. Euclid residents were chosen to make presentations to the full conference, and were invited to return again next year!



Junior (15) removed himself from a difficult family situation by staying temporarily with friends when he could, and living on the streets when his resources were exhausted. After two years of missing school and living day-to-day, he finally reached out for help. Today, he is a resident of the Patak House, and has not just returned to school - he made the Honor Roll last semester with all A's! Junior was also elected student-body Vice-President by his peers in Summer School.

Education Services



Circle C residents have had another productive year educationally. With the support of program staff, Circle C's Education Coordinator, Allegheny Intermediate Unit staff, and public school personnel, many of our residents have made impressive academic progress – improving their attendance, grades and test results. During the last quarter of the 2003-

04 school year, 50% of Circle C's

residents made the honor roll!! Our Rewards for Education Achievement Program (REAP) also helped to create more positive expectations by generating a “friendly competition” between the programs each month.



During the year, Circle C residents were enrolled in 12 different education settings, including public middle and high schools, a charter high school, two private schools, a local vocational training center, and the Community College of Allegheny County. Thanks to Title I Funding and sup-

port from the Mt. Oliver Intermediate Unit, residents attended Circle C's Summer School Program in conjunction with FamilyLinks students and staff. With a teacher-student ratio of about 1:3, students often make tremendous progress – improving several grade levels in the course of the five week session! The curriculum included very personalized instruction in English, math, social studies, and for the very first time, a science class focused on robotics! Family members, staff and teachers attended the annual awards luncheon, where students were honored for their many achievements. Following another successful summer school, Circle C was able to continue it's Tutoring Program at each of the group home facilities. Two nights a week, certified teachers provide additional help to the residents most in need.

Therapeutic Services

Family therapy has become more and more of a challenge. Many children who come into our care arrive from families that are financially and emotionally impoverished. Our therapeutic staff attempt to build or restore family connections, even for those children who are unable to return home. Having an on-site therapist is critical to addressing the many complex issues involved in these circumstances. Our Education Coordinator, Case Manager and Medical Coordinator also work to provide youth with specialized services. Families are regularly apprised of progress or concerns, and are invited to evaluations, school meetings, etc. If needed, transportation is provided. Our goal is to encourage and empower parents by working towards collaborative relationships.



Foster Care Program

Through the *Designated Family Program*, Circle C brings together a network of dedicated individuals who are able to provide the intimate setting that only a family can offer. Our foster parents are willing to open their homes at a moment's notice – for both short and long-term care. During the past year, an emphasis has been made on helping children to improve developmentally. With the support of their foster parents, many children have received specialized services to overcome emotional, physical, and intellectual delays. The foster care staff continued to be amazed at the change that can occur in a child's life when there is love, support and encouragement. The developmental gains, improved school performance, and big smiles are great rewards.



Beverly (16) spent years in a foster home that wasn't really meeting her needs. She was depressed and thought very little of herself. At a review hearing she chose to come to Circle C's Oasis House, even though it was a more structured setting. She's thrived there, sharing recently in an essay, "Circle C's homes are a place of refuge. For someone like me, this is the only place that we have to go."

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Pittsburgh, PA 15205

The official registration and financial information of Circle C Youth and Family Services may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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