

2005-06 ANNUAL REPORT

Catholic Community Services
A FOREVER HOME FOR EVERYONE

A Forever Home is not a place.

A Forever Home is the opportunity to live responsibly
in a nurturing home and caring community.

A Forever Home for Everyone is about permanence.

Permanence leads to stability.

Stability provides the platform to
build a productive life.

*“ . . . we can build a home for everyone that goes beyond the walls and windows,
a place where dreams are made and hope won't fade,
that lives and grows forever in our hearts . . . ”*

The Forever Home Song

Lyrics and Music by Rebecca Shepard

Catholic Community Services
A FOREVER HOME FOR EVERYONE

**A LETTER FROM JIM SEYMOUR
CCS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

As a Catholic Charities member agency, Catholic Community Services is called to create a more just and compassionate society and address what the Church sometimes calls the “scandal of human suffering.” Over the years I’ve come to believe that the scandal of human suffering isn’t so much in the suffering itself as it is in suffering alone, without hope. We all suffer but we don’t all feel left alone.

Last year, during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, I was asked by a National Guard officer to speak to his troops before being deployed to Louisiana. This officer had volunteered his time to work at CCS and said he noticed that the suffering we encountered seemed to make us stronger, more compassionate people rather than tearing us down. He wanted his troops to become stronger, better people as a result of the suffering they were about to encounter. As it turned out, his troops were moved out earlier than expected before I could speak to them, but his request left me feeling proud of our employees and volunteers who are willing to be with people who are suffering – and to do so in a manner that is both tender-hearted and tough-minded. Even more, I am humbled by the courage and resiliency of the children, families and adults we serve.

At CCS, our stand is *A Forever Home for Everyone*. We reach out to children, families and adults who are suffering from the effects of poverty, mental illness, addictions, and developmental disabilities. We let them know they are not alone. The community cares about them and have sent us out to prove it.

With gratitude,

JIM

Oregon Child Welfare System Inundated with Meth Kids

Oregon officials say the impact of methamphetamine use on families in the state is easy to measure: the number of foster children has doubled in the past three years, [ABC News](#) reported May 30.

Alcohol and other drug-related arrests of parents are blamed for the trend, with much of the increase due to raids on makeshift meth labs. "Meth has emerged as nothing short of a weapon of mass destruction in our community, leaving in its wake its greatest casualty, and that is our children, one child at a time, by the hundreds," said Walt Beglau, the district attorney of Marion County.

"The number of calls we started getting in child welfare around meth-using parents ... shot through the roof," added Jason Walling, head of the county's Child Protective Services. "We've seen a rise on average of 35 to 38 children coming in to foster care a month, 'till now we have well over a hundred children a month coming into foster care. And in March of last year we saw approximately 165 children come in, just in that one month ... It has led to the most devastating crisis that our community has ever seen, in my opinion."

Juvenile court Judge Pamela Abernathy said her goal is to get meth users into treatment and reunite them with their children whenever possible. Otherwise, she said, "We are going to have another child on our hands who is going to cost society millions of dollars in special medical services, special-education services, juvenile delinquency and prison."

However, federal laws adopted in response to the crack epidemic require states to terminate parental rights if children stay in foster care too long. That works against rehabbing meth users, who often require lengthy treatment stays.

Meanwhile, Oregon is suffering a shortage of foster homes and foster parents to deal with the influx of children into the system.

PROGRAM REVIEW

COMMUNITY HOMES FOR CHILDREN & COMMUNITY RECEIVING HOME

MISSION:

- Provide permanent neighborhood homes for children in long-term foster care
- Provide a safe, nurturing home to siblings experiencing the trauma of being taken into protective custody, especially after meth raids

DHS statistics indicate 180 Marion County children are lingering in foster care with no hope of being reclaimed by their families and little hope of ever being adopted.

The Community Homes for Children offer these children a nurturing home of their own.

The Community Receiving Home for Children opened in July 2005. It helps keep siblings together and gives DHS time to find the right foster care placement the first time. The program is working.

By the numbers:

- 200+ traumatized children found safety & comfort while awaiting placement
- 10 Children have a home, family and community they can call their own.
- A third home is ready for 4 more.

STREET VISION

MISSION:

- Help adjudicated Hispanic/Latino youth learn skills and behaviors to live productive lives

Street Vision youth provided 200+ hours of Community Service. They earned \$300 wrapping Christmas gifts and running a dunk tank at the Marion County Fair – then donated the money to low income Hispanic families in the Street Vision neighborhood.

The Street Vision program continues to grow and succeed with its evidence-based curriculum under the guidance of Program Director Josh Graves who also leads Community Homes and Foster Care Services.

By the numbers:

Served 28 Youth

THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE

MISSION:

- Provide at-risk youth a caring home with trained therapeutic foster parents who share the goal of successfully reuniting the family

Competition for qualified foster parents has dramatically increased along with the rapidly escalating number of children entering foster care. CCS has devoted a tremendous amount of time and money in improving our foster parent recruitment, training and retention program this year. Program Directors Deb Davis and Josh Graves believe this will make a significant difference in program performance and service to children and families.

By the numbers:

- 81 at-risk youth were cared for by 37 CCS Foster Parents
- 14 CCS Foster Parents completed 3-day *Rebuilding Children's Lives* evidence-based curriculum

PROGRAM REVIEW

HEALTHY START in Marion County

Mission:

- Provide support and education to first-birth parents to raise children who are **safe and thrive**.

The Healthy Start program provides first birth families the support needed to raise their children well.

CCS voluntarily participated in a Healthy Families America Healthy Start program audit and received very high marks.

Outside evaluation of the program continues to indicate that the program is not only preventing child abuse but supporting the whole family's health, education, and wellbeing.

Elizabeth Underwood, new Healthy Start Director is providing continued strong leadership following the retirement of Gail Freeman.

By the numbers:

- 400+ first birth families received 4,507 hours of service during 3,606 home visits
- Volunteers contributed 3,650 hours of service valued at \$59,444

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: NEW STEP ADDICTION SERVICES & COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER

Mission:

- Provide alcohol and other drug addiction treatment services with unconditional regard and respect
- Empower children, adults and families through evidence-based intervention and counseling

In Marion County, as many as 1500 children were in protective custody during a recent month. Parental drug and alcohol abuse is the driving factor in the reasons why nearly two-thirds of these children are in care state-wide.

With the Meth Crisis rampant in our community, the need for New Step Addictions Services has never been greater. But at the same time, fewer people than ever can afford the treatment they need – often treatment that will make the difference in whether a family can be preserved or restored. Program Director Dave Steinke has empowered his staff to move forward with needed community education, development of private pay, sliding scale, and refined medical billing administration.

By the numbers:

- 835 Customers received 4,290 hours of treatment
- 855 Customers received 11,700 hours of counseling

PARAGON HOMES NURSING SERVICES WORK OPTIONS

Mission:

- Provide nurturing community homes and 24/7 nursing care for medically fragile adults with developmental disabilities.
- Provide vocational programs and employment alternatives for developmentally disabled adults

All of CCS programs worked to improve our ability to measure and improve outcomes during the last fiscal year but none made more progress than Nursing Services under the guidance of Program Director Debbi Schuetze. The Nursing Services department identified what they call the “fatal four plus one”. The fatal four are the four medical issues most likely to cause death or severe degradation in the quality of their patient's lives. The plus one includes preventing unnecessary emergency room visits.

With this clear focus and tools to measure progress, the Nursing Services team is clear that they are producing positive outcomes for their patients and continually improving the quality of their care.

By the numbers:

- 35 customers received 22,672 hours of skilled nursing care in 7 Paragon Homes
- 26 Customers received alternative employment

PROGRAM REVIEW

RAINBOW FAMILY SERVICES

Mission:

- A community that supports families to care for one another and raise their children well

It was just one year ago that CCS agreed to bring Rainbow Family Services under our corporate umbrella. Diane Brandsma has provided excellent leadership as the new Rainbow Family Services program director.

Jess Armas and Mike Hansen have led the effort to transfer RFS contracts to CCS, an effort that has led all the way to the Attorney General's office. Steve Miller has guided the legal and human resource issues necessary to transfer employees and Therapeutic Foster Parents to CCS. Guy Schoen and Mary Marshall led the effort to host the first annual "Together We Create Community" luncheon in Yamhill County, which was well attended and raised more than \$20,000.

By the numbers:

- 12 Families provided Treatment Foster Care for 30 youth
- 75 families received Functional Family Therapy
- 100 families were connected to resources through Family Support and Connections

WOODBURN CHILDREN'S CENTER

Mission:

- * Nurture the center back to financial health and take it to the next level of child development services for migrant children in the Woodburn community

Lori Cox and Elizabeth Montoya have transformed the Woodburn Children's Center from an adequate migrant day care program on the verge of bankruptcy into a vibrant child development center with a bright future.

John Kerr, a local businessman and community leader, has taken WCC under his wing and is developing a new board of directors and an effective strategic plan and fund development program.

Mike Ryan and Commissioner Janet Carlson provided leadership that resulted in Marion County deeding WCC facility and land back to the WCC, allowing the center to restructure its debt .

By the numbers:

- * 50 toddlers, pre-school, and school age children were served
- * The center received a \$500,000 asset

ISN BROKERAGE

Mission:

Generate break-throughs in the cost and effectiveness of Human Services

- * Francisco Lopez and his staff continue to receive very high marks from their customers. Their services support adults with developmental disabilities to live, work, and enjoy life in the community. Customers appreciate the leadership training they receive that prepares them to advocate on their own behalf regarding affordable housing, employment, education, transportation, and health insurance issues.
- * The ISN completed a very successful Youth Brokerage demonstration project and has won support from the Oregon Department of Human Services to move Independent Living services for youth aging out of foster care to the brokerage model.

By the numbers:

- * Adult Brokerage: 600 customers
- * Youth Brokerage: 65 customers

Founded in 1938 by Father Theodore Bernard, Catholic Community Services of the Mid-Willamette Valley and Central Coast was originally formed to better meet the needs of families and individuals left destitute by the Great Depression.

Today, CCS operates a full continuum of social services with the vision of creating “A Forever Home for Everyone”

The CCS stand “A Forever Home for Everyone” is based on the core belief that everyone has the right to live responsibly in a safe, nurturing home in a caring community.

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**SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY LEADERS
FOR COMMUNITY HOMES FOR CHILDREN**

*“Our foster care system crisis demands an effective community action plan...
I support Community Homes for Children because they work.”*

**Pamela L. Abernethy
Judge
Third Judicial District Circuit Court of Oregon**

*“Our community is faced with an ever-expanding foster care crisis that has pushed our ability to respond well outside our capacity...Meth has the overwhelming
power to destroy an individual and leave neighborhoods, relationships, family life and children shattered in its wake... We believe – I believe – that
Community Homes for Children is a powerful step to address some of the specific challenges we face today and, unfortunately, for some time to come.”*

**Raul Ramirez
Sheriff, Marion County**

*“...Too many of Marion County’s children are in crisis. As law enforcement takes action to root out methamphetamine, the county’s already exorbitant
numbers of children in foster care have skyrocketed...The (Children & Families) Commission 2005-07 strategic plan is dynamic and action-focused,
embracing an aggressive schedule for more foster care homes – especially Community Homes for Children...”*

**Randy Franke & Janet Carlson
Co-chairs
Marion County Children & Families Commission**

Catholic Community Services
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Accredited by the
**National Council on Accreditation
for Children and Family Services**

A Member Agency of
**Catholic Charities of Oregon
Catholic Charities USA**



CCS is a locally governed 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation designated by the Archbishop of Portland, Oregon as the Catholic Charities agency in seven mid-Willamette Valley and Central Coast counties: Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Linn, Benton, Lincoln and Tillamook. In addition, we have offices in Clatsop and Columbia Counties as part of the Child, Youth and Family Integrated Services Network collaborative partnership.

Catholic Community Services

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