



Perspectives

MISSION

To improve the quality of life for homeless and at-risk families and children.

PROGRAMS

Supportive Housing

- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Housing

Kids Connection

- Kids Café
- Reach for the Stars
- Summer Explorers

Parent Education

- Support Groups
- Family Focus

Parenting Time

- Supervised Visitation
- Exchange
- Parent Coaching

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A Letter of Appeal

from the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

Because of you. . . .

- 52 recovering, homeless mothers and over 100 children are living in safe, supportive housing.
- Formerly homeless children are improving school performance by staying in one school throughout the entire year.
- Families are becoming self-sufficient.
- Recovering families are rebuilding their lives.
- Families are moving from welfare to work.
- Families are creating healthy non-violent relationships.
- Children are benefiting from their parents' improved parenting skills.
- Children are receiving care after school instead of going home to an empty house. Over 60 K – 6th grade students are coming to our Kids Connection Program for academic learning, and a scrumptious and nutritional dinner in our Kids Cafe.
- 70 kindergarten through sixth grade children are enjoying a full day of summer school and recreational activities. Children are blossoming in our nurturing and safe environment where their “working poor” families can feel confident their children are truly cared for.
- Children feel safe while visiting their non-custodial parent in our supervised and caring environment – and parents are learning how to positively interact with their child.



These are just some examples of the wonderful changes parents and children are experiencing as, together, we continue to pursue our mission:

To improve the quality of life for homeless and at-risk families and children.

For our families leaving a life of despair for one that offers hope and promise is a continuing journey ... the road is long and often rocky; but with your help and support there is light at the end.

All of us at Perspectives take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Warm regards,

Jeannie Seeley-Smith

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Things Our Family Center Needs Throughout the Year

Do you or someone you know have **gently used or new** items to donate to our Family Center? Or maybe your employer, faith community, or other organization you belong to is interested in collecting items for our families. Please call Laura, 952-926-2600 x-16 to discuss your donation. In particular, we need:

- Beds
- Pots & pan sets
- Sofas
- Chairs
- Dressers
- Child-safety-proofing items
- Clothing from newborn to adult for both genders
- School supplies for K-12
- Computers/educational software
- Books
- Games
- CD/DVD players
- Cooking equipment
- Paper products
- A working dishwasher
- Child-sized, kidney-shaped tables
- Science lab materials
- Sensory education materials
- Risers
- “Leveled” reading books K-12
- Cell phones



Perspectives’ Kids Connection Receives “Young Explorer”

Computer from IBM KidsSmart Program

IBM and the Little Tykes Company have gotten together to create the Young Explorer learning computer center—an all in one computing solution for early childhood centers, preschools, elementary schools, libraries and other settings where young children learn and play.

Perspectives was recently awarded one of these innovative units for use in its Kids Connection Program. In addition to a computer, the unit is made from durable, colorful plastics, and is engineered to withstand a classroom of active kids. The child-sized bench seats two and the entire desk is scaled to just the right proportion to place the monitor at a child’s eye level and the mouse and keyboard within reach of little arms. The keyboard is a flat- surfaced, easy clean membrane with large brightly colored keys. Our kids are loving it!

We would like to thank our Perspective of Hope Sponsors

Wells Fargo
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Mpls./St. Paul Magazine
Bel Air Investments Advisors, LLC
Sandra Pohlad
Johnson Institute Foundation
Financial Concepts
First Impressions Group
Centurion Printing



Executive Director Jeannie Seeley-Smith presents Jon Campbell, Wells Fargo Great Lakes Regional President with the First Annual Community Partnership Award at our Perspectives of Hope Annual Event.

October, 2004

Perspectives Board Welcomes New Members

Perspectives has added several new members to its Board of Directors. These members are:

Marilyn Dahl, Regional President of Small Business Banking, Wells Fargo Bank, N. A. Dahl is also currently chair of the Board of



Directors of the Better Business Bureau and has recently completed her tenure as the chair of Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest. She remains on the Board of Junior Achievement and serves on the Boards of Twin Cities RISE!, Metropolitan Economic Development Association, Hope Chest for Breast Cancer, and the College of Saint Catherine.

Chef Kim Aubol provides consultation and start-up services to food and restaurant businesses

throughout the Twin Cities. Dayton's Market Place, Byerly's, Lund's and Maud Borup have benefited from her expertise. In addition, Chef Aubol was a private chef for several years. Aubol has been active with Kids Café since its inception.

Marie Jules works for Cargill as a business analyst in its Strategy and Business Development Department. Jules is an attorney, and holds an MBA.



Jules travels extensively and is a member of the United States Airforce Reserves where she is a JAG officer and holds the rank of Major.

David Onan, III, Trustee of the Onan Family Foundation, is

also a CPA who is launching a new business venture designed to serve high end residential projects. David has served on the boards of the Lake



Minnetonka Sailing School, Wayzata Yacht Club, the Wayzata Sailing Club, Crow River Hockey Association Club and Delano Area Sports Arena. David has been a youth hockey coach for 16 years.

Keith W. Tomlinson is Pulte Homes Minnesota Division President. Before joining Pulte in 2002, Tomlinson managed the growth of the PGA TOUR's Tournament Players Club network across the country including the one in the Twin Cities. Tomlinson is a CPA and has held leadership roles in a variety of charitable organizations.

Becky Bailey has twenty years of public relations experience. Recently, Bailey formed Carrera Communications, a public relations firm that specializes in helping clients build brands and communicate their products and services to key audiences in relevant and effective ways. In addition, she promoted the Championship Auto Racing Team, launched the Washington Monument Restoration program, and kicked off Target House at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Share the Holiday Spirit with Perspectives' Families

In past years the generosity of the community has made the holidays a joyous time for our families. Thanks to the many wonderful individuals, organizations and workplace sponsors who have made the holidays so special. Please consider the following items for a gift to our families:

- Gift cards for groceries
- Gift cards for clothing and households items
- Gift cards for gasoline
- Bus cards
- Family games
- Movie passes
- Camp Snoopy passes
- Children's CD's
- Family outing /recreational activity passes
- Family DVD's or videos
- Phone cards
- Calendars/Daytimers

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Showcases Kid Connection

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth held its national conference in Saint Paul in October. Perspectives was invited to present “Kids Connection: The Link Between Life Skills and Learning” which focused on how skills learned by students participating in Kids Café can be transferred to other areas of their lives. The presentation also linked the Kids Café learning with the Reach for the Stars Program’s academic goals. The highlight of the presentation was showing this national audience the video “Chef at Large,” the Canadian Food Network television show that showcased the Kids Café.

