

Perspectives



AGAINST THE ODDS: MOM AND DAUGHTER EARN SPRING DIPLOMAS

On May 18th, Yolanda B graduated with an Associates Degree in Human Services from the Minneapolis Community Technical College. Two weeks later, her daughter Monique earned her high school diploma. Those two simple sentences would have been impossible to imagine just a few years ago.



Monique and Yolanda

Yolanda came to Perspectives in 2003 after a harrowing, thirty-year journey of addiction, prostitution, and injury that has left her scarred emotionally and physically. Raised intermittently by her grandmother and mother on the west side of Chicago, Yolanda had her first drink at her eighth grade graduation.

Her promising start in track and field gave way to a frightening race to the bottom. Yolanda doesn't remember high school. Her sixteenth birthday cake was a sister-prepared cocktail of cough syrup and downers. By 17, she had sampled heroin and was soon dealing it, through the birth of the first of her two babies the following year. With a new addiction to cocaine at 23, the demand for quick cash led to years of prostitution.

She sometimes fought against the tide. The first in a succession of treatment attempts began at 25 in Chicago's Haymarket. In the next 11 years, Yolanda committed to eight or nine different treatment programs, and endured repeated relapses.

Along the way, she had moments of inspiration and the support of "angels." A key example was *Mom*, as Yolanda called the woman who befriended her during her worst times in Chicago, offering a safe place to recover and recoup. Yolanda spoke of a

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ANN BANCROFT FOUNDATION TO GIVE 2006 AWARD TO PERSPECTIVES

For ten years, the Ann Bancroft awards have recognized extraordinary leadership and achievement by women and girls. We are thrilled to report that the Ann Bancroft Foundation has selected Perspectives, Inc. as its winner of the 2006 Ann Bancroft Award for Organizations. The Awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday, September 26th at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis starting at 5:30 pm.

Perspectives was selected by the Ann Bancroft Foundation for its strong history of supporting girls and women. Its recent newsletter notes, "Perspectives' dramatic success rate in returning its residents to the social and economic mainstream is over 70 percent."

The organization, along with two exemplary women community leaders and one exemplary teenage girl will be lauded at the September event. Over 2,000 guests are expected at Orchestra Hall that evening.

Ann Bancroft organized and led the first all-woman expedition to Antarctica, becoming the first woman to reach both Poles across the ice. Ten years ago, Ann formed the foundation to support girls and women to realize their highest dreams and potential. The Foundation recognizes individual achievement and promotes initiatives that inspire courage, risk-taking, integrity, and individuality in girls and women. Proceeds from the Foundation's event in September will be invested in scholarships and mini-grants.

Ann recently visited Perspectives, attending the May Leadership Luncheon at Kids Cafe and touring the Family Center. She also toured our supportive housing program and met with residents. She is a true inspiration to the guests, staff, and participants.



Sue Zelickson, Ann Bancroft, Pat Weller, Jeannie Seeley-Smith & Vicki Wyard

MISSION
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- Kids Connection* Children's Enrichment
- Kids Cafe® cooking, nutrition, and social skills
 - Reach for the Stars after-school academics
 - Summer Explorers full-day summer school and recreation

- Parenting Time*
- Supervised Visitation and Exchange
 - Parent Coaching and Mediation

Jeannie Seeley-Smith, CFRE
President/CEO

Jeff Martinka
Vice President of Community Affairs and Newsletter Editor

Thirty years of breaking the cycle . . . creating hope

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30TH ANNIVERSARY FOUNDER EVENT

A very special gathering will take place at Perspectives' Kids Cafe on Wednesday, August 23rd. As part of our efforts to mark our 30th Anniversary, we will be hosting a Founder's Luncheon starting at noon. The gathering will include many of the original and early Board members and staff. The program will feature testimonials from key founders and from graduates of Perspectives' programs. For more information, please contact Jeff Martinka at (952) 926-2600, Ext. 29 or via jmartinka@perspectives-family.org.

Perspectives of Hope Gala on October 13th to Mark 30 Years



The annual Perspectives of Hope gala will be held on Friday, October 13th at the Metropolitan Ballroom in Golden Valley. Help us to celebrate Perspectives' 30th Anniversary with an evening of great fun for a great cause. Highlights include D'Amico-caliber dining, the Paul Cherba Jazz Quartet, vocalist Jazi Foreman, a live auction featuring the sparkling Karen Sorbo and a silent auction with attractions for every taste and any credit limit. New in 2006, a highlight of the evening will be a raffle drawing for a new 2006 Mazda Miata roadster, courtesy of Morrie's Mazda.

This year, we will mark thirty years of breaking cycles and creating hope for Minnesota families. The evening will feature a retrospective display detailing the impacts of our efforts as well as some remarks by key founders of Perspectives, including the family of the late Jane Onan.

Perspectives of Hope will begin at 6:00 pm and conclude at about 10:30 p.m.. The Metropolitan Ballroom is located at I-394, immediately east of the Xenia/Park Place exit.

For information about the event, visit www.perspectives-family.org. The site includes regular updates on the silent and live auction. To buy tickets or to offer auction or sponsorship support, call Jeff Martinka at (952) 926-2600, Ext. 29.

Kids Connection Graduation a Pride-Full Event

The spring graduation event for Perspectives' Kids Connection after school program was held on June 2nd with almost 170 students, parents, volunteers and staff attending. Sponsored by General Mills, the event featured achievement speeches by the graduating 6th graders, hopes and dreams for parents, and a volunteer-prepared dinner in Kids Cafe. It was a productive school year for the Kids Connection (KC) students. Here are some of the outcomes:

- 73 at risk students were enrolled in the program
- 84 of the students starting the KC program last fall completed the full school year with us
- 64 percent of the students improved their math performance by one half grade or more
- 52 percent of the students improved their reading performance by one half grade or more
- 15 of our students successfully completed the first year of the U of M's Early Risers Program

According to Kids Connection Program Director Mayme Casey, "The school year was marked by strong growth in parent and student investment in our program. For example, our Parent Advisory Council was a big partner in 2005-2006 and we had record numbers of parents supporting both the big events and the day-to-day program, like assisting in the classrooms and in our Kids Cafe."

The full day Summer Explorers program started on June 19th and will run until August 4th. It is the third year of the full day package and the program has its maximum enrollment of 61 students registered. Twenty-six of the participants will be attending week-long summer camps as part of the program.

WIN A 2006 MIATA FROM MORRIE'S MAZDA!

Through the generosity of **Morrie's Mazda**, Perspectives is pleased to host a raffle drawing for a new 2006 Mazda MX-5 Miata. Tickets are available from Morrie's and from the Perspectives staff and board members at \$10 each. Only 3,000 raffle tickets will be sold. The raffle drawing will be held at the Perspectives of Hope gala on Friday, October 13th at the Metropolitan Ballroom in Golden Valley.

The Mazda MX-5 Miata has been praised as a Top Ten car of the year by Car & Driver magazine. Redesigned for 2006 from the road up, this beauty is the third and finest generation of the best-selling two-seater roadster in history. Its standard features include an ultra-rigid body structure to improve handling, a new aluminum block engine to provide near-perfect weight distribution and agility, and a 170-horsepower, 2 liter DOHC 16-valve powerplant engine. With its new "look", the 2006 Miata offers a new z-fold convertible top with glass rear window and a stunning new interior with a host of new amenities, complimented by four cubic feet of additional cabin space. Visit Morrie's Mazda online at www.morries.com.

The raffle tickets are available by cash or check at Perspectives, from Perspectives staff, Board, and volunteers, and from Morrie's Mazda at 13700 Wayzata Blvd. in Minnetonka. Tickets may be purchased with credit cards at www.perspectives-family.org. For more information, call Perspectives at (952) 926-2600 or email info@perspectives-family.org. (You don't have to be present at the Perspectives of Hope drawing on October 13th, but it would be nice if you could join us. You must be at least 18 years of age to enter the raffle and employees of Morrie's and Perspectives are ineligible to buy tickets. Winners of the Miata roadster are responsible for applicable state and federal taxes.)

Second Quarter Private Supporters

In 2005, 53% of the support for Perspectives programs came from private sources. Here is a roster of the institutional donors to Perspectives during the period March 1 to June 12, 2006. On behalf of our homeless and at risk families, we thank you.

ACF Minneapolis Chefs Chapter
Bon Appetit (St. Olaf College)
Cargill, Inc.
Charlson Foundation
C I D, Inc.
Edina Rotary Foundation
Financial Concepts, Inc.
General Mills
Gray Plant Mooty Foundation
Kopp Family Foundation
KQRS
Krass Monroe, P.A.
McCormick & Schmick's
Minneapolis Gift Mart
McKnight Foundation
Morrie's Mazda
Onan Family Foundation
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Pulte Homes
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South Metro Vineyard Church
St. Louis Park Community Foundation
St. Louis Park Schools Foundation
Sysco
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
The Woman's Club of St. Louis Park
Wells Fargo Bank
Wells Fargo Foundation
Zonta International



Mom and Daughter Earn Spring Diplomas

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particularly stirring time with *Mom* after another young woman in the neighborhood had been found brutally attacked, "I'd been up for a week. I was sleeping at *Mom*'s for a few days straight, drying out. When I came to, *Mom* told me that I'd been mistaken for the murder victim. I had people hugging me and telling me that they were happy to see me. It might have been the first time I knew people cared about me. It felt so good to be missed."

The incident jarred Yolanda into action, and at 27, she joined a sister in the Twin Cities to escape her past and its patterns. Still, even in Minnesota, her past remained her present for years more. It wasn't until 2002, at the Women's Recovery Center in Shoreview, that she was able to break the cycle. Truly, 2002 was Yolanda's year. She has been sober since March 20, 2002. Though fighting the damage of successive decades of abuse, Yolanda buried herself in a GED prep program at the Bridge for Success program and the Windy City kid who dropped out of high school at 13 had become the battered but smiling 37-year old, clutching a hard-won GED certificate in December 2002.

From Shoreview shelter, Yolanda found an interim home at a sober house in south Minneapolis before applying for a transitional apartment at Perspectives. She was accepted into Perspectives' program in August 2003. Perspectives offered the first real home Yolanda had had since that eighth grade graduation in Chicago.

She soon applied for custody of her second and youngest daughter, Monique, and her grandson. Those two children joined her at Perspectives and Yolanda worked to re-build her relationship with her older daughter, Yolanta, at the same time.

"I recall the night I first met Yolanda", remarked Jazi Foreman, Director of Perspectives' Supportive Housing Program, "Right from the start, I was impressed by the hope in her eyes. As she spoke to me, her own face expressed a strong drive and renewed hope. She has kept focused on her goals and layer by layer, Yolanda has blossomed into the woman she truly wanted to be."



Jazi Foreman and Yolanda

Perspectives provided a perfect, supportive environment to spur continued growth for Yolanda, in work, in school, and in spirit. She has worked throughout her recovery, recently at the Salvation Army but for the last year and a half at Hennepin County's Detox Unit, providing a variety of direct service to clients there.

In addition to her 24-hour a week job, Yolanda maintained a heavy course load at the Technical College. In May, she earned her Associate of Science Degree in Human Services. She

immediately began work at Metropolitan State University, expecting to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Human Services with a focus on probation and corrections within two and a half years.

Mom and daughter Monique will be working on their Bachelor's degrees in tandem – daughter Monique starts at Shaw University in Raleigh this fall.

As for her spirit, Yolanda's own words capture that growth best, "I've had some terrible, terrible times and I have had the help of angels, but Perspectives is the best thing that has ever happened to me."

Cargill Awards Outreach Recognition

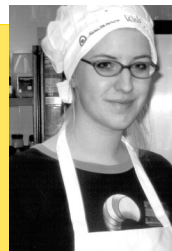


Back row, left to right: Steve Euler, Randy Romsdahl, Linda Jenkins, Laura Arne, Kathy Blaha, Angela Phelps; Front row, left to right: Jeff Martinka, Christine Ailabouni, Jeannie Smith (Laura and Jeff were visiting from Perspectives.)

In June, Cargill Inc. awarded a special commendation to its Law Department staff for their dedication to the Kids Cafe program at Perspectives. In addition, the firm made a donation to Perspectives in recognition of their efforts. Now in their third year, a rotating crew of three Cargill staff assist in Kids Cafe each Thursday helping the K-6th graders in meal preparation, nutrition, and social skills training.

Kids Cafe Graduate Earns Award

By Laura Arne, Director of Volunteers



Cassie Fabian

Cassie Fabian is a graduate of the Kids Connection program and a former student in the Kids R' Cookin' program. She has been an ongoing volunteer in Kids Cafe since she graduated. Cassie recently earned the Caring Youth Award after being nominated by Perspectives, Inc. Cassie was honored at a May 9th event at the Doubletree Hotel in St. Louis Park, where she received a certificate of recognition signed by Governor Pawlenty.

A Spirited 2006 Volunteer Night

By Laura Arne, Director of Volunteers

Each year, we try to recognize the importance of our volunteers with a special thank you event. This year's volunteer recognition night in Kids Cafe hosted a record attendance of 60 volunteers and 10 staff! Our volunteers participate in every one of our programs. Our volunteer program areas are: Supportive Housing, Kids Connection, Parenting Time, Facilities, Mental Health, and Support Services. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this agency, letting us be creative in what we do because of the varied skills and talents of our volunteers. This year we were honored to have inspirational speaker, author, and Board Member Emeritus David McNally join us. He offered a strong presentation on the power of helping those in need. Thanks also to Perspectives' residents and clients, James 'Woody' W., Melissa S., Sandra B., and Amy Mc., who offered inspiring personal stories of the impact of Perspectives and its volunteers.

Offering personal time and talent at Perspectives is a rewarding experience. Volunteers are critical to our success. The staff and families of Perspectives greatly appreciate their efforts!

Help Through United Way Designation

Perspectives, Inc. is not a United Way agency, but as a nonprofit organization, we do receive donor-designated United Way contributions every year.

To help our families through United Way, you only need to check off the donor designation box and fill in Perspectives' name and address on your United Way card.

2005 Annual Report Now Available

Perspectives' 2005 Annual Report is now available for your review, either online at www.perspectives-family.org or by calling Jeff Martinka at (952) 926-2600, Ext. 29. The report reviews achievements and outcomes for the year and includes a financial summary. A full 2005 financial audit is also available on request.



A Ten-Passenger Van and Other Wishes

We rely on the strength of our friends and a gratifying number of them provide us with gifts of in-kind products and services each year. Donated goods help us to preserve our funds for other uses and all donors receive a gift receipt for tax purposes. Can you help us acquire any of these items for our programs?

- ✓ Our 10-passenger van, which delivers parents and students to programs and events, is 11 years- and 97,500 city miles-old. A major transmission job is looming. Please contact us if you know of a viable option.
- ✓ Playground and sports balls (football, kickball, basketball, soccer) for the Kids Connection after school and Summer Explorers programs
- ✓ Basic school supplies (pencils, pens, notebooks, ruled paper) for Kids Connection
- ✓ Art supplies (crayons, markers, poster paper) for Kids Connection
- ✓ Children's movies on DVD or videotape for our child care program and Parenting Time families
- ✓ New hand or bath towels and wash-cloths for our Supportive Housing families
- ✓ Drinking glass sets for our Supportive Housing families

If you could help with any of these items, or have another ideas, please contact Laura Arne at (952) 926-2600, Ext. 16.

Hands-on Learning at McCormick & Schmick's



Executive Chef George Snyder and his students

Ten Kids Connection students joined Executive Chef George Snyder at McCormick & Schmick's in downtown Minneapolis on Nicollet Mall. The group experienced a top-flight kitchen, while also learning the finer points of shucking and sampling oysters. The restaurant has been a key supporter of Kids Cafe, providing guest chefs, organizing school supplies drives, and hosting specialty fundraisers.

An Invitation to Lunch at the Kids Cafe

You are invited to a July 19th Leadership Luncheon at Kids Cafe. The luncheons are a regular component of our community outreach program. We have hosted six gatherings and the results are impressive – identifying many new program volunteers, raising new support, and generating an immeasurable dose of new community good will.

Held in our charming Kids Cafe, the free luncheons offer fast-paced, one-hour updates on the programs and successes of Perspectives. The agenda includes welcoming and closing remarks by volunteers, a guest chef-prepared menu, a brief video, program reflections by staff, volunteers and program participants or graduates, and a low-pressure request to participate.

The concept is simple – with the help of volunteer Table Captains, we fill the charming Kids Cafe space with 50-60 friends, past and new. Table Captains are special friends who confirm potential Leadership Luncheon guests and then sends out printed invitations supplied by Perspectives' staff. Upcoming 2006 dates include July 19th and September 13th. For more info, please contact Jeff Martinka at (952) 926-2600 Ext. 29 or via jmartinka@perspectives-family.org.



2006 Calendar

- ✓ Thursday, July 13th (6:30 to 8:00 pm)
Supporting Housing Program
All-House Bar-B-Que Party at Perspectives' Louisiana Court apartments
- ✓ Wednesday, July 19th (12:00 to 1:00 pm)
Leadership Luncheon at Kids Cafe
- ✓ Thursday, July 27th (3:30 to 5:30 pm)
Kids Connection Lemonade Sale and Backpack Drive Kickoff at McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant Minneapolis
- ✓ Tuesday, August 1st (6:00 to 8:00 pm)
Take Back the Night Activities at Perspectives' Louisiana Court Apartments
- ✓ Friday, August 4th
Summer Explorers Program concludes
- ✓ Wednesday, August 23rd (12:00 to 2:00 pm)
30th Anniversary Founder's Luncheon at Perspectives' Kids Cafe
- ✓ Tuesday, September 5th
Kids Connection Program school year starts
- ✓ Wednesday, September 13th (12:00 to 1:00 pm)
Leadership Luncheon at Kids Cafe
- ✓ Tuesday, September 26th (5:30 to 8:30 pm)
Ann Bancroft Foundation 10th Annual Awards Celebration at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis
- ✓ Friday, October 13th (6:00 to 11:00 pm)
Perspectives of Hope Gala at the Metropolitan Ballroom in Golden Valley

For more information, or if you have other ideas, please contact Jeff Martinka at (952) 926-2600 Ext. 29 or via jmartinka@perspectives-family.org.