

Annual Report

June, 2008 – June 30, 2009



A Word from the President

For Community Addiction Services of Indiana, Fiscal Year 2009 was a year of transparency and transition. Much like our tag line – *Treatment. Recovery. Transformation.* – we practiced what we preach. We took a good look at our operations and we found them wanting. Our Board and the staff acknowledged our weaknesses and sought external help. With the support of the Not-for-Profit Training Center and Lilly Endowment, we embarked on a journey of self-examination and planning. We worked with consultant Aimee Laramore on our strategic plan and developed a fundraising and capacity-building process. We also had the opportunity to engage Hotbed Creative in a re-branding process to look at others' perceptions of us, including stakeholders, clients, and the general public.

This process allowed us to discover a lot about our relationship to the community. We learned that our agency name – Community Addiction Services of Indiana – led to the misconception that we were uniquely government-funded. The word *addiction* was stigma-laden and had negative connotations. During focus groups, our clients also gave us enlightening feedback: “Without even opening our mouths, we are already labeled because that is what the sign out in front says.” Fortunately, the clients assured us that they did not perceive the same judgment inside the building, and that staff were welcoming, warm, and expressed genuine concern.

As a result of this re-dedication, we decided to change our name to better reflect our goals. With our branding team's input, we chose *EmberWood Center* as our new name. *Embers* represent the glow that gives birth to the flames of change. Upon entering treatment, many of those we serve need help rekindling nearly extinguished hope for a better future and devising a plan to get there. *Wood* evokes the notion of trees ... trees grow, establishing new rings each year. Similarly for those we serve, that growth comes in the form of education and experiences through which they gain new skills to support drug- and alcohol-free lifestyles. The final image we intended our name to call to mind is that of a forest, where trees stand numerous and tall. Similarly, our clients quickly learn that they are not alone on the journey through treatment, recovery, and transformation.

On February 4, 2009, we celebrated 30 years of serving individuals and families on the near eastside of Indianapolis; we used that occasion to roll out our new name and host an open house. But, as one of our stakeholders told us, a new name and logo do not mean anything if they are not translated into quality services and efficient operations. We take that axiom to heart. Currently we are focused on a new strategic plan, a renewed emphasis on adolescent services, and dreams of where the next 30 years will take us.

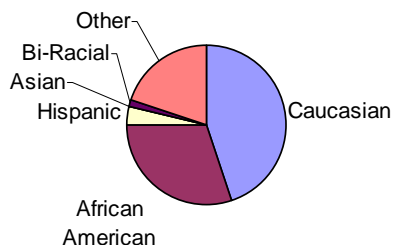
Let it be known that, while we were busy assessing and revising, we kept in mind that our most important priority is delivering quality services to those we have the honor of serving. In the last fiscal year, more than 700 people called and asked for help; of those, over 400 entered treatment; along the way, almost half successfully completed treatment and are on their road to recovery. We are pleased to share this annual report of our activities with the community.

Sincerely,

Vincent G. Failla
President

A look at those we served

2009 Racial Distribution

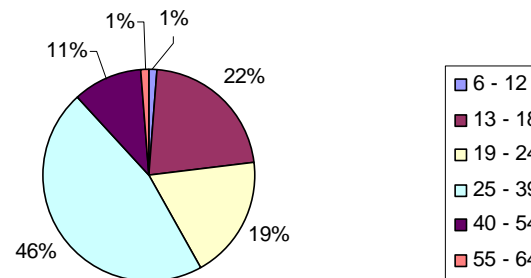


Ninety-five percent of the persons served resided in Marion County.

Eighty-five percent of those we served lived at or below 200% of poverty.

Some of those who come across our doorstep include: neighborhood residents, adolescents, mothers, fathers, college students, probationers, parolees, middle & high school students, children of addicted parents, parents of addicted children.

Age Distribution



One client's story

Jason is a 16-year-old young man from the near eastside of Indianapolis. He used to be the type of character most people would avoid at night. Until the point of intervention, Jason had been selling illegal drugs for over a year and had recently joined a group of teenagers whose intention was to eventually become a gang. He was not consistently staying in the house with his family, but was sleeping on friends' couches instead.

Jason came to EmberWood Center through an arrest for possession of marijuana and a firearm. When working with this young man, we discovered that he had a large family: five brothers, two sisters, mom and dad. They, as many of our families, struggle with financial stability. The father works a construction job, and the mother has several medical complications that keep her from working. As Jason progressed in our Street Alternatives program, his drug use and criminal activity decreased and then stopped. It has been over two months since he has engaged in criminal activities, and Jason is staying away from his former group of friends. His mother reports that he is home consistently and has recently found a summer job.

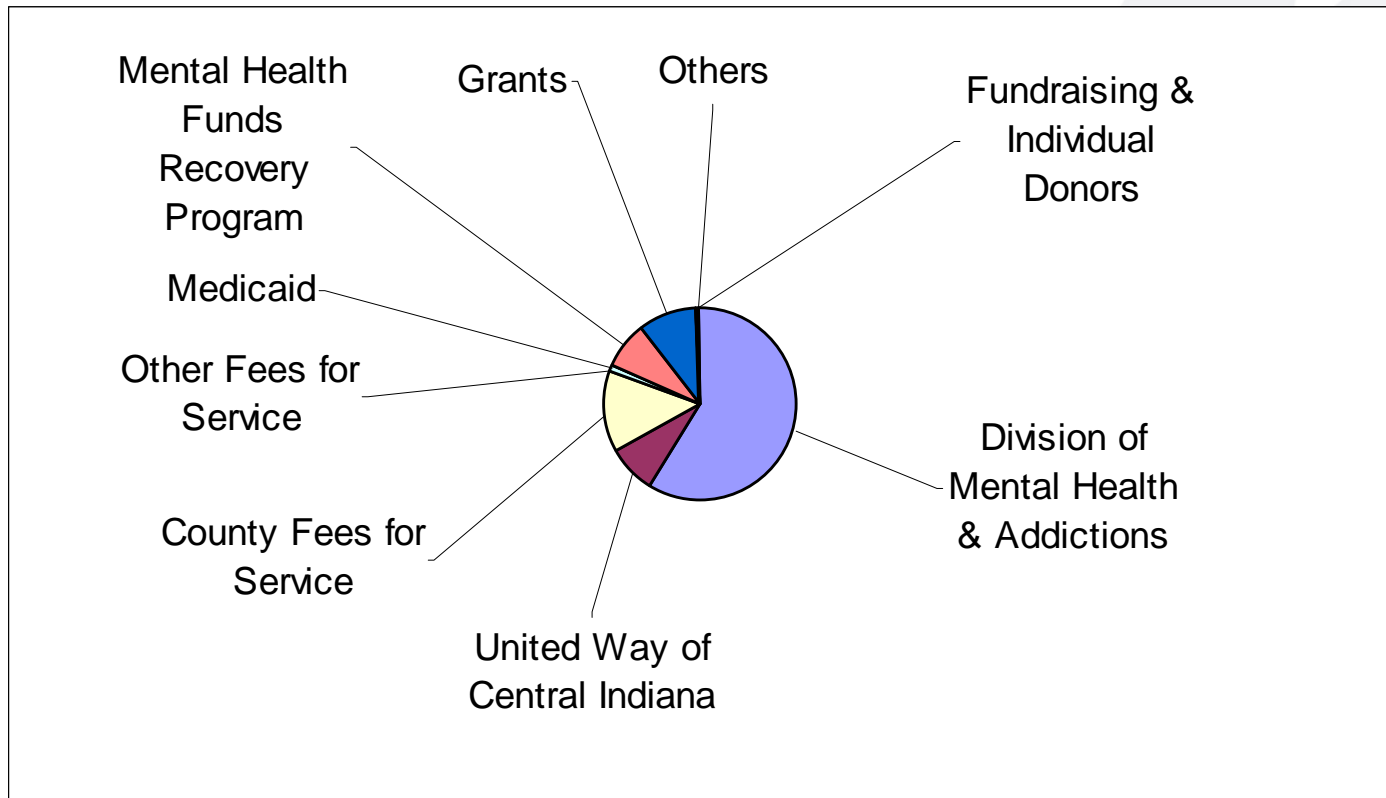
To celebrate Jason's progress, EmberWood Center partnered with the Indianapolis Indians to treat Jason, his family, and some other clients to a day at the ball park. On June 28, all ten members of Jason's family attended a game at Victory Field, including premium seating, transportation, and concessions. As the game progressed, it quickly came to light that the children in Jason's family had no concept of the game of baseball. Bryan, an EmberWood staff member, explained the rules and concept of the game. Later, one of Jason's siblings asked a very important question: "Why are you doing this for us?" *This type of activity is a key component of our program. We believe in strengthening the entire family of those we serve at EmberWood Center, if possible. At times, we work to develop the inner strengths of a family to foster resilience. Other times, we aim to assist a family in overcoming societal burdens through community partnerships.*

During the game, Jason's dad asked Bryan for help while getting some refreshments, but he really just wanted a moment of Bryan's time. Jason's father talked about his job and the hours that he works to support his family. He went on to tell Bryan that, in the three years his family has been in Indianapolis, this was the first family event they had all been able to attend together. Overcome by his emotions, the father thanked EmberWood Center for giving him his son back, as a month ago, he had thought, "I lost him to the streets."

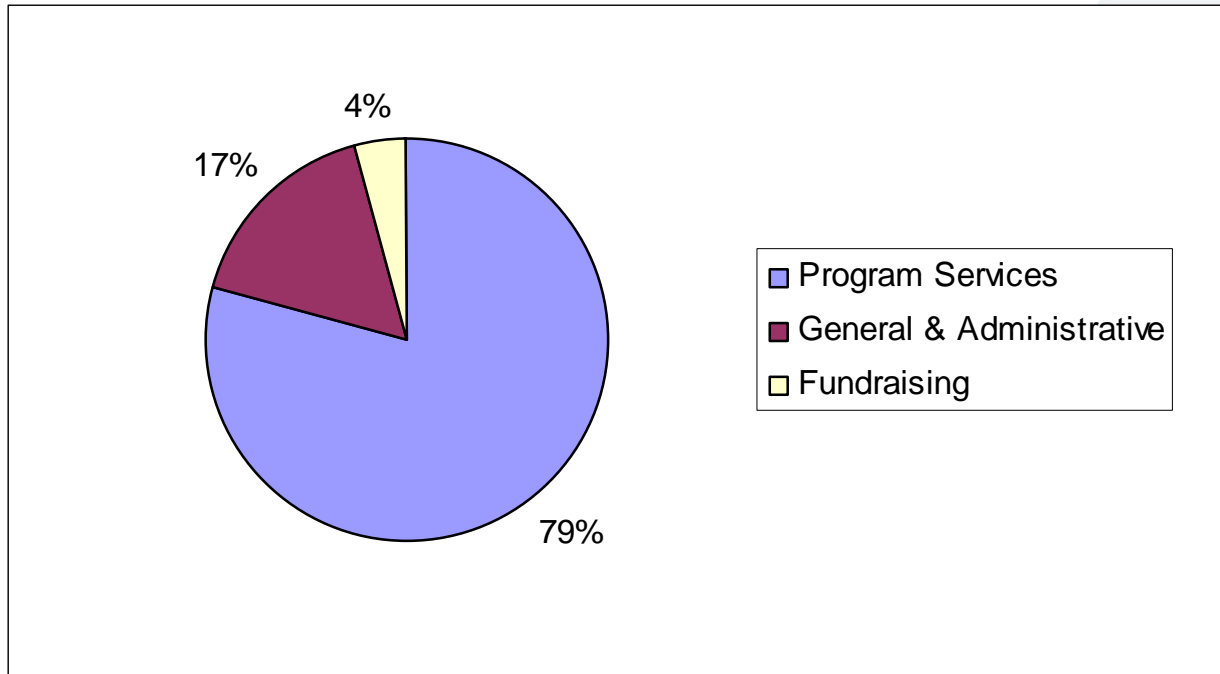
When positive change occurs in a young person's life, it affects his entire family. When families begin to be impacted, in time, it can revive a community.

June 2009

Who supported our mission



How we spent your money



Supporters, Funders & Donors

Division of Mental Health & Addictions
Access to Recovery
Drug Free Marion County
Keystone Construction

Indiana Department of Child Services
City Crime Prevention Program
Not-for-Profit Training Center
National Bank of Indianapolis

Lilly Endowment Inc.

Individual Donors

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Douglas Grasso • Douglas Maxwell • Dracina Will • Ersal Ozdimer • John Brandon
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Raquel Knight

Susana Wilson

Bessie Gilbert

Cindy Lambert

Julie Struble

Kim Thrasher

Marla Greenway

Tanya Peters-Gaus

For more detailed information or to donate on line,
please visit our website www.emberwoodcenter.org



Our Mission

EmberWood Center promotes growth, respect and integrity through community-based services to address the cycle of addictions with individuals and families.

Core Values

Growth

Respect

Integrity

Excellence

Your donations make it possible for us to help those who might not otherwise get help.

Please consider a tax-deductible gift today.