



INVESTING
for the
FUTURE

MESSAGE FROM THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION (ECF)

ECF's annual report provides our clients, families, and friends with a brief look into our world during a twelve-month period of time. We have entitled this year's report "Investing for the Future," a theme that appropriately describes the driving force behind the decisions we made during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2004, and the actions we have taken to advance our mission well into the future.

The unprecedented economic crisis in the State of California has forced hundreds of service providers across the state to make very difficult decisions about the programs and services that can be feasibly offered to our communities. While state funding cuts in several program categories over the last two years have made an excessively under-funded, strained system markedly worse, concurrent increases in expenditures, such as worker's compensation, energy costs, facility rent, and employee health premiums, have forced layoffs and program closures throughout the state. At the same time, California's population with developmental disabilities is growing, and the complexity of the disabilities of those in need of services is much greater.

Despite these extraordinary challenges, ECF's commitment to the people and communities we serve remains steadfast. Our resolve to meet the current and future service needs of the children and adults who rely on us day after day and year after year is undiminished.

Highlighted below are a few exciting developments that have helped to strengthen lives and brighten the future of our corner of the world:

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE DELIVERY

- In October of 2003, ECF expanded our residential program by acquiring a six-bed group home in Culver City.
- In November of 2003, ECF became one of the first service providers in the State of California to join the national Ticket to Work program. This program is designed to help people with a variety of disabilities achieve steady, long-term employment in the community.
- In April of 2004, ECF expanded our nationally recognized art center program to serve the South Bay. Our new art center is located in San Pedro and is the first of its kind in this coastal community.
- Also in April of 2004, ECF converted our twelve-bed group home in Reseda (called "Valverde") to an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF), creating our first Medi-Cal funded program and ensuring that our residents' changing needs (health care, self help, social-emotional) are met well into the future.
- Additionally, we continued to strengthen our already outstanding Board of Directors, whose insightful participation and caring have guided us in so many ways during the past year.

We all look for a good return on our investments. At ECF, we are gratified to see our investment returns every day: on the face of a child, who is able to hold his head up to see the world before him for the first time...on the face of a mother whose adult child has become employed following years of rehabilitation...or when, thanks to ECF, a service is provided that enables a person with a disability to become an integral part of the community.



ECF's ORIGIN

We are very proud of the progress we have made during these most challenging times and remain confident that the best years for people living with disabilities are still to come. Every day, we witness hundreds of success stories at ECF, and we continue to attract new friends, like you, who are helping us as we move forward...together.

We thank each of you for your support and for helping us invest in the future we all share.

Sincerely,



Scott D. Bowling, Psy. D.
President &
Chief Executive Officer



Leslie B. Abell, J.D.
Chair, Board of Directors
July 2002—June 2004



Gene Siciliano, CPA, CMC
Chair, Board of Directors
July 2004—

In 1946, a concerned group of parents came together to meet the needs of their children with mental retardation. By establishing a cooperative childcare system as an alternative to institutionalized care, these parents gave wings to their deepest convictions—and to their children. Out of their hope and determination, the Exceptional Children's Foundation ("ECF") was born.

As the first program participants grew, so did ECF's services, adapting to meet the needs of a maturing population. Over the years, ECF has developed into a comprehensive education, rehabilitation, social service, and advocacy agency that provides a broad range of innovative services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

From 12 sites in communities throughout Los Angeles County, ECF offers Early Childhood Interventions (Early Start), Developmental Activities, Fine Arts Training, Work Activities, Supported Employment, and Residential Care.

Throughout its 58-year history, ECF has honored a long-standing tradition of advocacy for community inclusion by pioneering innovative services for children and adults with developmental disabilities, including mental retardation, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism, and acquired brain injuries.

Investing for the Future... Our steadfast commitment to service delivery

ECF's resolve to meet the current and future needs of our nearly 2,000 program participants remains undiminished. We take special pride in enhancing the level of service and support we offer our clients throughout their lives. Our new ventures include transforming the residential facility in Reseda to an Intermediate Care Facility, opening a new ECF Art Center in San Pedro, and expanding our residential services program by acquiring a group home in Culver City.

EARLY START PROGRAMS

A child's first three years of life bear a powerful influence on his or her future development. Since 1971, ECF's Early Start program has provided high-quality therapeutic services to children and their families. These services are provided from centers in Arleta, Lomita, and Central Los Angeles, and in the child's home. Approximately 1,000 children participate each year in carefully structured activities that promote the development of fine and gross motor control, language, and social skills. These programs provide tools to nurture each child's abilities.

Early Start offers three core components: the Morning Program for children age one to three years, the Mommy & Me Program that serves the child and the parent/caregiver, and the Home Visit Program for infants and/or medically fragile toddlers who are unable to travel to the Early Start sites.



Two-year-old Chale Casiles participates in a variety of activities like matching puzzle pieces that reinforce developmental skills

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Research indicates that quality parenting during the early years of a child's life leads to better cognitive development. ECF provides a strong support system for families.

At ECF's Family Resource Center, we frequently provide answers to questions from parents, such as: Where can I find schools that will help my child? How can I get respite care? How do I make a nutritious meal from the food I can afford to buy?

Families may use the Resource Center while their children attend the program or at other times. The Resource Center serves as a meeting room for parenting classes and support groups. The Center also has training videos, bilingual printed materials, and an extensive resource base of social service agency information and contacts.



Jesse Sandoval, age 3, happily takes his turn in the padded tube. Each activity at Early Start—from mealtime to playtime—is a lesson to nurture each child's unique abilities.



Investing for the Future... Nutrition Education

A special addition to the ECF Family Resource Center is the Nutrition Education program. This year, ECF established a partnership with the University of California Cooperative Extension to provide a series of workshops to over 300 families. The workshops focus on teaching economical ways to purchase nutritious food and to prepare balanced meals for families. National studies show that for every \$1 spent to implement a nutrition education program, up to \$10 is saved in healthcare costs and \$2.50 in food expenditures.

"The nutrition class was very informative, and it showed my family and me how to pick healthier alternatives. We now eat better and we learned more about milk intolerances."

—Father of Early Start Program Participant

DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITY CENTERS (DACs)

After high school, many adults with developmental disabilities hope to enter the work force. For those who require more time and support, ECF's Developmental Activity Centers in Los Angeles and Culver City offer pre-vocational training, social interaction, recreational activities, crafts, and community involvement.

The Culver City site utilizes classroom and natural environments for training in self-care, self-advocacy, community integration, and vocational skills. The Central Los Angeles site is an innovative, simulated community that has won admiration and acclaim. Clients achieve their potential for independence through simulated settings that take the place of traditional classrooms.

Outdoor recreation activities enhance developmental skills while providing an opportunity to explore nature and the environment. Field trips provide real-life adventures for the program participants, as ECF clients experience first-hand what they may have only heard about or seen in pictures.



DAC instructor Thelma Santiago with Ganda Grovdahl teaches how to make a necklace in a class that fosters creativity.

ART CENTER

ECF's Art Center program opens the door to creativity and self-expression. The first ECF Art Center was established in Los Angeles in 1968, when there were virtually no similar programs for people with developmental disabilities. Today, ECF offers a model program for art centers across the nation.

The reputation of the ECF Art Center continues to flourish. Set designers and other professionals involved in the entertainment community seek some of the remarkable artwork produced by ECF artists. This year alone, more than 40 ECF clients have sold artwork for use in television and movies. Other ECF artwork adorns homes and offices throughout Southern California and beyond.



ECF artist Deveron Richards has gained fame and notoriety for his watercolor paintings that bear his unique perspectives.



Investing For the Future... San Pedro Art Center: Reaching More Communities

This year, responding to needs identified in its three-year Strategic Plan, ECF developed an Art Center program in San Pedro to serve the South Bay community of Los Angeles County. ECF's new Art Center on South Pacific Avenue in San Pedro is situated among unique art galleries, international restaurants, and eclectic shops. Inaugurated early in 2004, this Art Center is a smaller model, licensed to serve 30 adult artists. This ideal location was chosen for its ability to expose ECF clients to the resource-rich community around them and to showcase the work of our talented artists to a new community of admirers, visitors, and patrons.

"Student-artists go out into the community and bring back new ideas for their works of art."

—Art Center Instructor

WORK ACTIVITY PROGRAM

ECF's Work Activity program, also known as PAR Services, provides paid vocational training from production centers in Culver City and Santa Fe Springs. The program is designed to teach and strengthen basic work skills in assembly, packaging, and fulfillment, while providing the opportunity to use these skills in paid sub-contract work. In addition, program participants learn appropriate work habits, such as good attendance and the importance of following directions.

ECF's Work Activity program boasts many longtime customers who are pleased with ECF's competitive rates and reliable workforce. A cross-section of these clients includes packaging broker Container Concepts, diet food company Celebrity Products, the cosmetics company Smashbox, and the General Services Administration, among others.

Adults enrolled in ECF's Work Activity program earn a paycheck (often for the very first time in their lives)—which provides a tremendously powerful tool for developing and reinforcing a feeling of achievement, pride, and participation in society.



Longtime program participant Donald Perkins completes his tasks at the PAR Services work center in Santa Fe Springs.

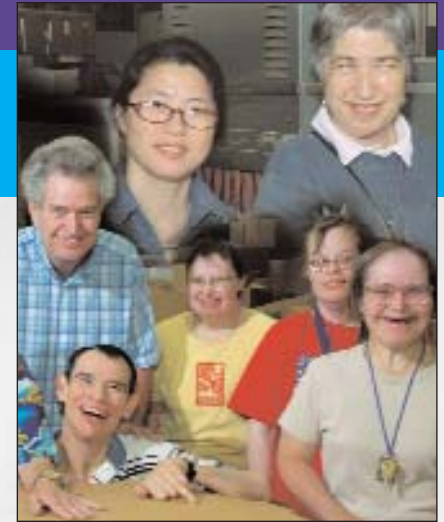
SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

While some workers enjoy the center-based vocational training and the income earned based on productivity rates, others express the desire to work in the community. ECF's Supported Employment program matches qualified adults with appropriate job openings in the neighborhood. Through a step-by-step process, ECF job coaches help program participants find employment and perform the demands of a position successfully until each client has mastered the skills and behaviors to work independently.

Supported Employment opportunities include individual placements, group placements, and work crews. With ECF's support, clients often become employed to perform a variety of jobs, including janitorial and landscaping services, customer service, and entry-level clerical work. Dozens of businesses and government offices participate in this program, including Starbucks, Ralph's, Trader Joe's, the Los Angeles Superior Court, and the cities of Culver City and Santa Monica.



Requintha Jenkins finds work in customer service at Ralph's grocery store in mid-City Los Angeles.



Investing for the Future... Ticket to Work: Opening More Doors to Employment

This past year, ECF was selected to participate in the federally mandated Ticket to Work program, which provides support and employment-related assistance to eligible individuals who are entering or re-entering the workforce. ECF staff assists with case management, job placement, job training, transportation assistance, job retention support, and referral services.

"We help bring ticket holders into gainful employment and eventually off SSI."

—ECF Job Coach

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Started as a small program in 1956, ECF's Residential Services program has grown to include Independent Living apartment complexes in Los Angeles and Whittier, a six-bed Community Care Facility (CCF) in Culver City, and a twelve-bed Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) in Reseda.

Thanks to partnerships with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the cities of Whittier and Culver City, ECF's Residential Services Program affords adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to live in the community. Training and support are provided during the morning and evening hours, before and after residents report for work or day activity programs. Meal planning and preparation, housekeeping, health education, and money management are among the skills that ECF teaches each client.



Program participants Nick Villvalva and Daniel Jacobs take on the task of preparing dinner. All 12 residents at ICF Valverde help with household chores.

SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES

ECF offers Supported Living Services for adults with developmental disabilities who have been housed in State Developmental Centers and have decided to live in the community with appropriate support. Tailored to each client's needs and desires, ECF's broad range of services includes assistance in finding an apartment, identification of employment goals, establishing a network of support systems, securing adaptive equipment and supplies, recruiting personal care attendants, facilitating community participation, and generally advocating on behalf of the client whenever needed.

ECF also helps Supported Living participants locate and use available mental health and vocational services, Medi-Cal providers, and other services that a client may need. Because of this program, more adults with developmental disabilities are participating successfully in community life.



Maria Garcia learns to prepare her own meals. Supported Living participants now reside in the community after years of institutionalization.



Investing in the Future... Valverde ICF: Extending Our Continuum of Residential Services

As people with developmental disabilities live well into their 60s and beyond, the need for medical assistance, as well as other community supports, increases significantly.

Because of this need, ECF converted its home in Reseda into an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) this year. Residents receive nursing care and additional supervision, while living in the community and engaging in a variety of activities. The medical component of this program enables residents to continue their lives as normally as possible without having to be institutionalized.

"Our residents feel more at ease knowing there is a nurse available when they don't feel well."

—A Valverde ICF Site Manager

ANNUAL REPORT — FY 2004 — HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The Exceptional Children's Foundation wishes to thank all who have contributed during the past fiscal year, July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004. If your name has been inadvertently omitted, we apologize and ask that you let us know. We regret that space limitations do not permit us to list donors who have contributed less than \$100. However, each gift has helped us fulfill our mission, and we extend grateful appreciation to all who support us in our work.

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2004

Operating Revenue & Other:



Total Community Support	4.6%
Tuition & Fees	67.3
Contract Sales	19.8
HUD Program & Rents	3.4
Other Sources	1.1
Transfer from Endowment	3.8
Total Operating Revenue & Other	100.0%

Operating Expenses:



Programs	87.2%
Administrative	11.0
Development & Fundraising	1.8
Total Operating Expenses	100.0%

Non-Operating Activities

Change in Market Value of Investment	\$ 305,944
Debt Service	\$ (129,725)
Capital Expenditures	\$ (95,412)
Pension Plan	\$ (187,649)

Operating Revenue

Community Support

Contributions and Foundation Gifts	\$ 372,025
Fundraising Events	230,399
Total Community Support	602,424

Other Revenue

Tuition and Fees for Early Start, Developmental, Habilitative, Residential, & Camp Programs	8,792,079
Contract Sales for Client Work Programs	2,591,262
HUD Program & Rents	437,703
Other Sources	149,974
Total Other Revenue	11,971,018

Total Operating Revenue	12,573,442
Transfer from Endowment	501,000
Total Operating Revenue & Other	13,074,442

Operating Expenses

Programs

Early Start	2,781,050
Work Activity Centers	2,480,661
Residential Services	2,342,392
Supported Employment	2,191,685
Developmental Activities	1,240,757
Art Center	828,002
Summer Camp	74,782
Total Program Expenses	11,939,329

Administration

Administration	1,498,483
Development and Fundraising	247,635
Total Operating Expenses	13,685,447

OPERATING BALANCE

\$ (611,005)

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

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The Honorable Dickran Tevrizian
United States District Judge
Central District of California

VISION STATEMENT

The Exceptional Children's Foundation (ECF) will continue to provide progressive, integrated community services of the highest quality for people with developmental and other disabilities. Within the social service system, ECF will be recognized for providing a progressive work environment that attracts and retains experienced, high quality industry professionals.

ECF will create and be an integral part of diverse communities that value all individuals while providing the opportunities for people with developmental and other disabilities to live, work and recreate in settings of their informed choice.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Exceptional Children's Foundation (ECF) is to create and provide high quality, progressive, and integrated community services for children and adults with developmental and other disabilities to enable them to achieve their greatest potential.

HEADQUARTERS & ADMINISTRATION

8740 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232 (310) 204-3300

EARLY START PROGRAMS

2225 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 735-1424

2427 Pacific Coast Highway, Lomita, CA 90717 (310) 534-4735

C/o Trinity United Methodist Church
14061 Terra Bella St., Arleta, CA 91331 (818) 830-6411

WORK ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

8707 Sorensen Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 (562) 945-1064

8740 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232 (310) 204-3300

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

8740 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232 (310) 204-3300

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES & SUPPORTED LIVING

1914 West Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016 (323) 934-5265

8218 Santa Fe Springs Rd., Whittier, CA 90606 (562) 698-4914

7600 Vanalden St., Reseda, CA 91335 (818) 342-3826

10918 Barman Ave., Culver City, CA 90232 (310) 839-7109

ART CENTERS

3750 W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008 (323) 290-6030

624 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro, CA 90731 (310) 519-8527

DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

8740 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232 (310) 204-3300

1430 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006 (213) 748-3556



Exceptional Children's Foundation
"Empowering People with Disabilities Since 1946"