

# Celebrating

65 YEARS



1946 1956 1966 1976 1986 1996 2011

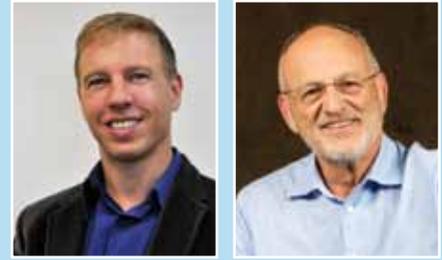


Exceptional Children's Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

# Dear Friends,

This year marked our 65th anniversary of serving children, youths and adults with developmental challenges. Throughout ECF's history, the organization has built a solid reputation for helping countless individuals with special needs to find meaning and purpose in their lives. This annual report celebrates the year's significant achievements while highlighting the milestones of the past 65 years, during which ECF developed and expanded its capacity to provide services throughout an individual's entire lifespan.



ECF's strength is rooted in nearly seven decades of outstanding leadership. Our leaders, past and present, have positioned the organization to withstand challenging times without losing sight of our mission to enhance the lives of adults and children through comprehensive and effective programs. This year, with overhead costs kept at an impressively low 11.5 percent, we were able to ensure uninterrupted services amidst a stringent economic climate.

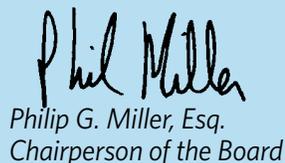
Our commitment to our clients, their families and ECF friends and supporters is that we will be here for generations to come. This year alone, we made noteworthy strides toward expanding our long-term impact over the next several decades. Our accomplishments included:

- Completing our three-year strategic plan, with 90 percent of our objectives achieved. This translates into the capacity to improve more lives.
- Increasing the number of children and families served in our Early Start Program by nearly 20 percent.
- Celebrating the largest ever high school graduating class from our Kayne Eras Center.
- Through the City of Los Angeles Redevelopment Agency, securing the historic LAFD Engine House 18, the future home of our South Los Angeles Art Center.
- Placing 95 clients in jobs they secured through our Supported Employment Program.
- Purchasing a permanent home for our San Pedro Art Center facility, ensuring the long-term viability of the Arts Program in the South Bay.
- Raising \$1.2 million while honoring our friend Robert Eckert at Mattel, Inc., at the most successful fundraising event in ECF's history.

To all of our current and past leaders, board members, supporters and friends, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your passion and support this past year, and over the past 65 years! Thanks to your tireless dedication, generations of children and adults can enjoy lives filled with potential and promise.

Sincerely,

  
Scott D. Bowling, Psy.D.  
President & CEO

  
Philip G. Miller, Esq.  
Chairperson of the Board



## Cover Art:

Deveron Richards has been an ECF Art Center artist since 1987. His artwork has been included in exhibitions, art shows and galleries across the country. Portions of this watercolor can be found throughout the pages of this annual report.

# 65 years

In 1946, a group of 16 Los Angeles parents pooled their resources to create a daycare program for their children with developmental disabilities. Sixty-five years later, the Exceptional Children's Foundation (ECF) is a recognized innovator in services for adults and children with emotional, learning and developmental disabilities. Through visionary leadership and effective financial management, ECF has emerged as a national model in helping the developmentally disabled achieve what was once considered impossible. Toddlers who were given complex diagnoses have developed language and social skills. Youths with learning and behavioral challenges have learned how to learn and are now community college students. Some of ECF's adult clients live independently in their own apartments. Others hold jobs at local grocery stores and county agencies. Many have produced artwork that graces the walls of corporations and national galleries. Through a unique service delivery model that spans from birth to adolescence and adulthood, ECF empowers its clients to live full and meaningful lives.

“There was a time when it was said children with disabilities would never grow or progress, and that made us all the more interested in helping. I'm proud of the successes that we've made possible for these children and their families through ECF.”

— Gloria Franks, Founding Member, SHARE, Inc., ECF's longest-term funding partner



# 65 YEARS

1940's

1950's

1946 - ECF is founded



*Ladies of SHARE.*



*Young students at assembly.*



*Teacher assisting Art Center client.*

- SHARE, Inc., a prominent Hollywood women's philanthropic group, adopts ECF, initiating a commitment of support that has continued for more than 55 years
- ECF establishes the Child Guidance and Counseling Center, the first service of its kind west of the Mississippi
- First Work Activity Center is established at the Adams Boulevard headquarters
- Residential Program is launched at Elkhorn Ranch in Saugus
- Dr. Robert Shushan is hired as ECF's first executive director

1960's

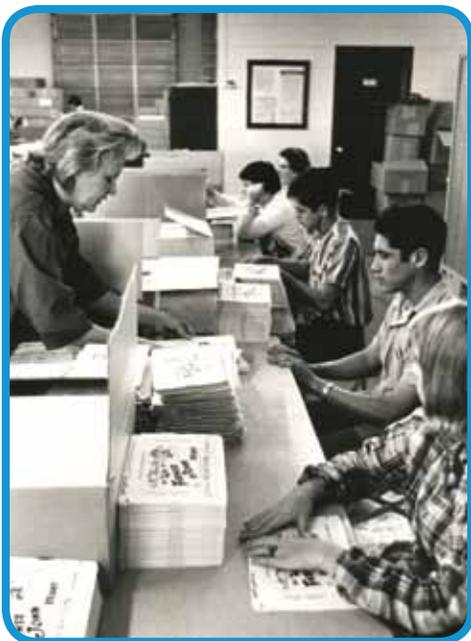
1970's

1980's



Los Angeles Mayor Tom Yorty acknowledges ECF leadership and supporters.

- Second PAR Services – Work Activity Center opens in Whittier and a third site opens in Torrance
- In conjunction with the Otis Arts Institute and with support from SHARE, Inc., ECF launches the Art Center Program



PAR Services opens.



ECF leadership and supporters joined by representative from State Department of Rehabilitation for opening of Southern California's first job placement and training program for adults with developmental disabilities.

- SHARE provides funding to create the Infant Development Program, designed to support infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities
- ECF opens its first Developmental Activity Center (DAC)
- ECF Headquarters and the Art Center Program move to a new building on West Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard



Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley presents proclamation to ECF supporter actress Janet Leigh.

- ECF wins a multi-million dollar federal government contract for PAR Services – Work Activity Center clients to manufacture file organizers
- Through a grant from the Social Security Administration, ECF launches the Supported Employment Program to help people with disabilities secure jobs in the community
- Rockwell International commissions ECF artists to create art for its corporate headquarters



First Lady Nancy Reagan celebrates opening of new Headquarters and Art Center Building.

- First Supported Employment Program worker is placed in a job at Holiday Inn
- The first federally subsidized housing in the West for people with disabilities is established by ECF through the Department of Housing and Urban Development; two separate apartment buildings house ECF clients
- The Valverde group home in Reseda is built to house residents who require some supervision to live relatively independently



W.M. Keck Foundation representatives with board member Andrew Bogen at opening of new service site in Central LA.

- ECF Supported Employment work team earns a three-year contract valued at \$1.8 million for janitorial services at the Ronald Reagan Building in Downtown LA
- Contracts for recycling services performed by ECF work teams are signed with Santa Monica and Culver City
- ECF launches a nationally recognized health and fitness model for developmentally disabled senior citizens
- ECF artists gain national attention when their works are featured at the National Gallery in Washington, DC
- ECF secures a janitorial contract for Supported Employment work team, valued at \$975,000 per year at the Federal Building
- Dr. Robert Shushan retires; Scott D. Bowling, Psy.D., is hired as ECF's President & CEO



Dr. Shushan and his wife Mary.

- ECF creates the Board of Governors and inducts its first governor, Larry Hagman
- ECF becomes one of the first providers in California to participate in the "Ticket to Work" Program, which helps people with disabilities secure long-term employment in the community



Supported Employment client on the job for 18 years.



Board member Les Abell, LA Councilmember Janice Hahn and Scott Bowling, President & CEO at opening of San Pedro Art Center.

- ECF creates its first Medi-Cal funded residential program to help meet clients' future health, social-emotional and self-care needs
- ECF Headquarters relocates to Culver City
- ECF and the Kayne Eras Center merge and expand ECF's continuum of services to include educational and therapeutic services for children and youths with special needs, including a K-12 school for students 5-22



Students developing skills to express their creativity.

- Residential Services Program expands with the acquisition of two additional six-bed group homes in Culver City
- The ECF Kayne Eras Center gains full accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

## 2011 - ECF celebrates 65 years of service



## Programs

### A Continuum of Service

For the families of children and adults with developmental, learning and emotional disabilities, dealing with several different agencies to ensure their loved one's needs are met can be daunting. Over the past 65 years, Los Angeles County families have entrusted their loved ones to ECF with confidence, knowing that the organization has the expertise to address their needs through all stages of life, under the same service delivery umbrella. ECF is the only organization of its kind in California to provide a lifespan of services to children, youths and adults. From the Early Start Program and the ECF Kayne Eras Center to the Work Activity, Supported Employment and Residential programs, ECF's goal is to help clients develop and sustain their independence to the extent that they can throughout the various stages of their lives, from birth to the senior years.

Through visionary leadership and sound management practices, ECF's continuum of services has evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of its clients and to provide current information and a broad scope of support services to their parents and family members. ECF has maintained best practices by securing reputable licensing and accreditations, including accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). In essence, the organization today is the embodiment of the vision its founding families had, which was to create an alternative to institutional care so that their loved ones could live full lives in the community.

“At every stage of life, ECF program participants are better prepared for the years ahead of them thanks to the confidence, knowledge and courage our staff has helped them access within themselves. Our high employee retention rate speaks volumes about the organization's commitment to our clients and their families.”

— Scott Bowling, *President & CEO*



“My child began ECF’s Early Start Program when he was 2. The program has helped him become more independent, to communicate better and to socialize with people and other children. I’m happy and grateful that my son has participated in these services. He has greatly improved.”

— *Magdalena Cruz, parent*

## Early Start Program

One of the first programs of its kind in Los Angeles County, ECF’s Early Start Program was created to address the needs of children 0 to 3 who have been diagnosed with or are at high risk for developmental delays. Because 90 percent of a child’s brain growth occurs in the first three years of life, the program plays an integral role in early intervention, offering a range of home- and center-based services for the child as well as the parents. In an environment that closely resembles a traditional preschool, children partake in a variety of structured activities designed to help them build language, motor, cognitive and social skills. With a ratio of one instructor to three clients, each child can receive individualized attention and support at two Early Start centers in Los Angeles County. Physical, occupational and speech therapy also are available based upon a child’s individual needs.

For parents, a comprehensive array of services is available, including parent support groups and one-on-one visits with caseworkers. Mommy and Me classes help parents and caregivers learn at-home therapeutic techniques as well as gain a better understanding of their child’s disability. Crisis counseling, marriage and family counseling, an onsite emergency food pantry, parent education and training, and a family resource center complete the full range of parent support services.



## Kayne Eras Center

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the ECF Kayne Eras Center (KEC) is a K-12 school that employs innovative teaching methodologies for students 5 to 22 with learning disabilities, developmental challenges and social, emotional or behavioral issues. Behaviorists, speech therapists and educators with special education credentials work in conjunction to identify the barriers that hinder a child's ability to learn. An exceptionally high ratio of staff to students means that each child receives individualized attention and support as they harness a learning style that can help them achieve a level of academic success.

KEC provides a Mental Health Program that offers counseling services for students and their families. A Diagnostic and Therapeutic Center provides speech and educational therapy, testing and behavioral intervention. KEC graduates have successfully transitioned into trade schools, jobs, community colleges, four-year colleges and ECF adult service programs.

“The progress my children have made at Kayne Eras Center is amazing. They’ve gone from behaving combatively to being able to hold jobs and appear on television shows. It’s something I never would have imagined. KEC is so family-oriented that when something good happens to one child, it affects the whole school. Everyone is an active participant in that child’s life.”

— Terri Vigil, parent and President of the KEC Parent-Teacher Organization



“The Art Center is like my home. I like to go where I want in the community, I like to buy my lunch. The people here are nice to me.”

— ECF Downtown Art Center participant

## Art Centers

Launched in 1968 with generous funding from the Hollywood women’s philanthropic group SHARE, Inc., ECF’s Art Center Program was created for adults with developmental delays who showed an interest or talent in the fine arts. Today, four Art Center facilities offer full-day programming taught by professional art instructors, five days a week. Using a full array of artistic media including watercolor, oil, ceramics and pen and ink, ECF artists express themselves and build on their innate artistic abilities.

In addition to art instruction, the Art Centers offer independent living skills, counseling and behavior management to support participants on their path toward self-reliance. Through juried art shows, public exhibitions, silent auctions and online sales, artists are given exposure and the opportunity to benefit financially from their work, which helps cultivate a sense of accomplishment and self-worth.

## Developmental Activity Centers

Established in the 1970s, ECF’s Developmental Activity Center (DAC) Program formed the basis for a statewide model to help foster independence among adults with moderate to profound developmental disabilities. Through a series of activities ranging from recreational and social to practical and domestic, participants learn skills that can help them become more self-reliant. Personal grooming, ordering in a restaurant, taking public transportation, cooking and grocery shopping are some of the tasks participants can master, based upon their individual ability level. Activities and outings provide opportunities for clients to form friendships, develop a feeling of integration in the community, and cultivate a sense of pride and accomplishment.

With two locations, the DACs offer full-day programming, Monday through Friday. In addition to life skills instruction and community outings, the DACs provide a range of volunteer opportunities. An Adult Day Program component offers more intensive, one-on-one care for adults who need additional support. The Young at Heart component is tailored to the health and fitness needs of aging adults and seniors.

“We are proud to have ECF as part of our civic community. They are a vibrant and dynamic community partner and play an integral role in serving children and adults with disabilities.”

— *Scott Malsin, Former Mayor, Culver City*



## Work Activity - PAR Services

Since 1956, ECF's Work Activity Program, or PAR (Packaging, Assembly and Rework), has enabled adults with developmental disabilities to earn a paycheck as they learn to perform task-related skills. Two locations feature a protected environment where participants receive onsite training and support in jobs that match their particular skill level. Some work on assembling file folders and product packaging as part of government or business contracts. Others create artists' canvases for art supplies stores, while some develop proficiency using shrink-wrapping and heat-sealing equipment.

With the support of an ECF supervisor, participants learn the importance of being on time, how to behave appropriately and professionally on the job, the relationship between productivity and earnings, and how to problem-solve through situations that can occur in a traditional workplace environment. The outcome for program participants is a sense of achievement and purpose.

## Supported Employment

Sustainable, gainful employment is the goal of ECF's Supported Employment Program. Through a comprehensive spectrum of services including job matching, community job placement, on-the-job training and ongoing case management, hundreds of adults with developmental disabilities have secured work through employers such as Trader Joe's, Hilton Hotels, Kinko's, Target, the Los Angeles Superior Court, and the cities of Santa Monica and Culver City.

ECF clients benefit from the satisfaction of earning a paycheck and becoming productive members of the community. Employers gain enthusiastic and reliable employees, some of whom have held the same job for more than 15 years. The community benefits as well from a diverse workforce sector that relies less on government assistance as it becomes increasingly self-sustaining.





## Residential Services

More than 50 years ago, ECF's Residential Services Program was established to help adults with developmental disabilities transition from institutionalized settings into community-integrated living. Today, through a comprehensive range of in-home living skills training and support services at a total of five facilities, ECF enables clients to live independently in the community to the extent that they are capable. Four program components accommodate the varying needs of developmentally challenged adults.

The **Independent Living Program** comprises two 13-unit apartment complexes in which clients develop essential life skills such as housekeeping, money management, meal preparation and personal care with the support of ECF staff. Once a participant is ready, ECF staff members help them transition into a home of their own.

**Intermediate Care Facilities** are designed for individuals who require 24-hour care and additional support with daily tasks, but who desire a certain level of independence. Three facilities serve 24 residents in private and semi-private bedrooms, with staff offering education, supervision and meal preparation. Licensed professionals provide behavioral, speech and language therapy, as well as physical therapy and diet and nutrition support.

ECF operates a six-bed home as a **Level III Community Care Facility**, which provides 24-hour staffing and assistance with tasks such as cooking, hygiene and grooming for individuals who are independent and do not require specialized, professional service.

For adults who have transitioned to their own community apartments and homes, **Supported Living Services** provides customized support services to help them live successfully. Care can comprise a few hours a week to 24 hours a day, depending on the client's needs.

“Since ECF’s founding in 1946 to the present, it has earned a well-deserved reputation as one of the most astute, premier nonprofit organizations in pioneering, establishing and expanding services through a large geographic area for an increasing number of children and adults with varying types of disabilities.”

— Robert Shushan, Ed.D.,  
President Emeritus, ECF

# Service Highlights

## Clients Served

- 2,424 clients and family members

## Early Start

- 26,510 home visits for families with infants and toddlers with developmental delays
- 807 hours of individual counseling for parents
- 1,270 hours of group counseling for parents
- 3,683 hours of Mommy and Me Enrichment Groups
- 8,170 hours of speech and language therapy

## Kayne Eras Center

- 39,780 days of special education for children with developmental, learning or emotional delays\*
- 8,400 hours of school-based counseling
- 2,442 hours of speech therapy
- 791 hours of occupational therapy

## Diagnostic & Therapeutic Services

- 868 hours of speech and language therapy
- 32,952 hours of behavioral training

## Mental Health Services

- 5,777 hours of individual and family therapy

## Art Centers

- 20,557 days of instruction for adults with developmental disabilities\*

## Developmental Activity Centers

- 31,552 days of creative programming for adults with developmental disabilities\*

## Work Activity—PAR Services

- 32,776 days of on-site assembly and packaging work for adults with developmental disabilities\*

## Supported Employment

- 19,493 hours of job coaching for adults with developmental disabilities working in community jobs

## Residential Services

- 11,950 hours of independent living training for adults with developmental disabilities who are living in their own apartments

\* This represents the number of clients served annually by the program multiplied by the number of days they received services.



“A little girl entered the Kayne Eras Center at age 9. Her school had told her parents she couldn’t learn because of a brain tumor. At 14 they discovered she did not have a tumor but a rare form of dyslexia. She went on to attend Oxford University and became the first woman to work in the New York Stock Exchange. If the intervention happens at the right time in the right place, many children can go on to lead wonderful lives.”

— Barbara Cull, Founder, Kayne Eras Center

# Honor roll of donors

Through the generosity of our supporters, ECF programs and services have enhanced the lives of thousands of disabled children, adults and their families this fiscal year (July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011). The Exceptional Children's Foundation extends its gratitude to all who contributed.

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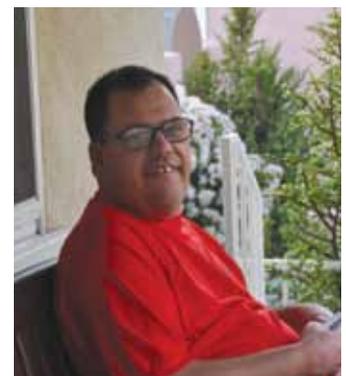
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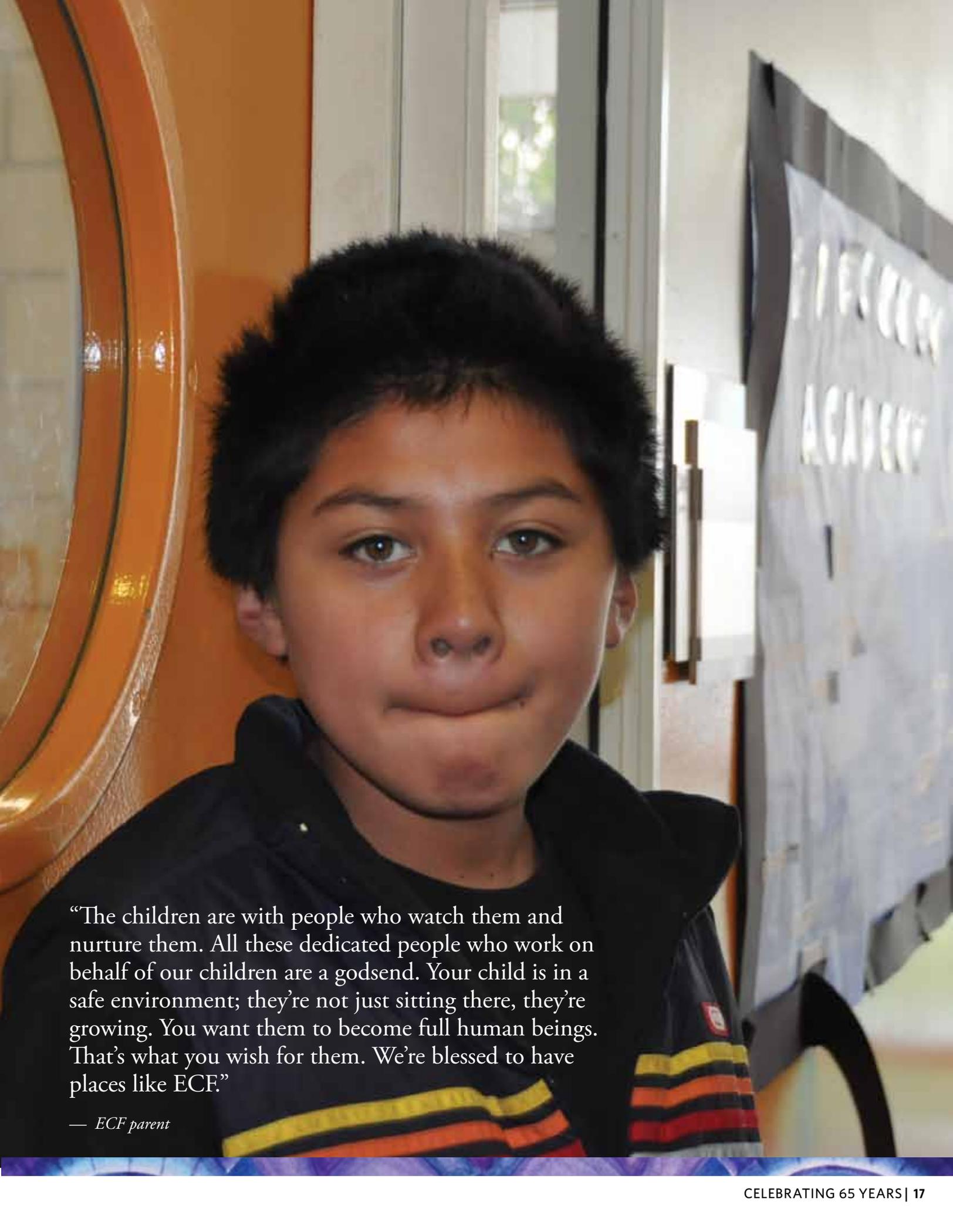
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“The children are with people who watch them and nurture them. All these dedicated people who work on behalf of our children are a godsend. Your child is in a safe environment; they’re not just sitting there, they’re growing. You want them to become full human beings. That’s what you wish for them. We’re blessed to have places like ECF.”

— *ECF parent*



“I truly respect and admire ECF leadership – the board, the senior staff and the CEO. They have a clear vision of what they do and why they do it, and refuse to let external factors such as a difficult economy deter them from their ultimate goal of serving L.A.’s special needs kids.”

— Trent Stamp, Executive Director,  
The Eisner Foundation

# Leadership

Outstanding leadership has made Exceptional Children’s Foundation what it is today. As it celebrates 65 years, ECF honors the vision, courage, resourcefulness and generosity of each member of the Board of Directors, the Board of Governors and the Executive Management Team.

## Board of Directors

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\*Kayne Eras Center Founder  
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## Executive Management Team

Scott D. Bowling, Psy.D.  
*President & CEO*

Karen Kato  
*Vice President, Administration*

Sonhui Robilotta, CPA, MBA  
*Vice President, Finance*

Emily Lloyd, LCSW  
*Vice President, Programs*

Debbi Winter  
*Vice President, Development  
& External Relations*

# Financial Highlights

## ECF 2010-11 Budget

### Operating Revenue

#### Program and Other Revenue

Regional Centers - Tuition and Fees	8,357,396
Unified School Districts - Tuition and Fees	6,845,273
ICF Medi-Cal - Tuition and Fees	1,450,347

Contract Sales	1,811,155
DMH Contract	904,189
HUD and Other Program Rents	629,603
Sale of Merchandise	44,126
Investment and Other Miscellaneous Income	1,912,277

**Total Program and Other Revenue 21,954,366**

#### Community Support

Contributions	954,998
Fundraising Events (Net of direct benefit cost of \$90,871)	1,165,401

**Total Public Support 2,120,399**

**Total Operating Revenue 24,074,765**

### Operating Expenses

#### Programs

Early Start	3,961,594
School and Transportation	6,627,943
Diagnostic and Therapy	1,521,009
Mental Health	829,113
Developmental Activities	1,259,097
Art Centers	1,220,643
Work Activity Centers - PAR	1,750,712
Supported Employment	1,802,219
Residential Services	1,705,780
HUD Properties	688,857

**Total Program Expenses 21,366,967**

#### Administrative

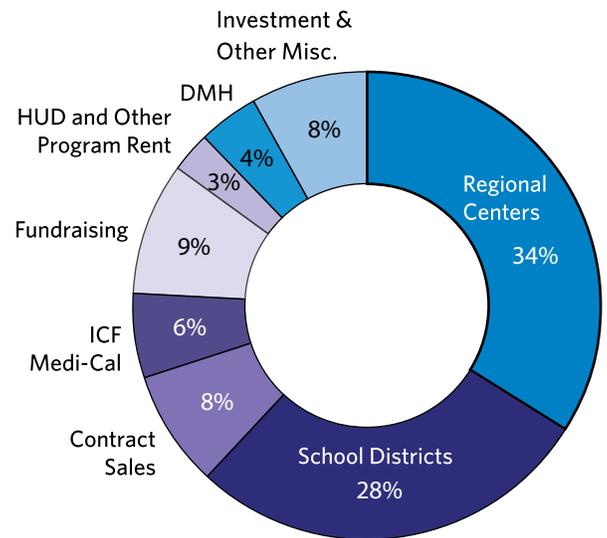
Administration	2,328,018
Development and Fundraising	444,858

**Total Administrative Expenses 2,772,876**

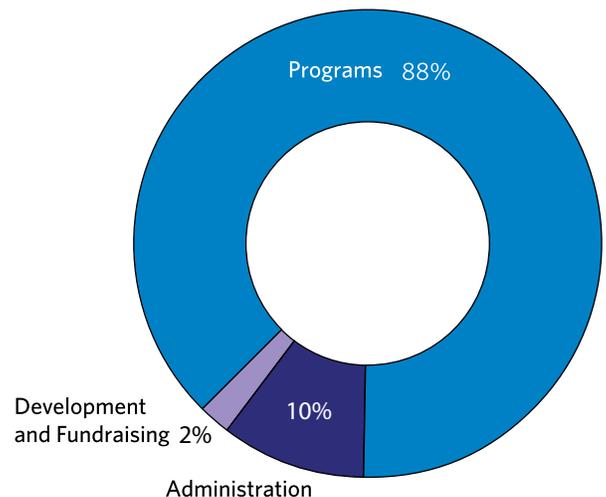
**Total Operating Expenses 24,139,843**

**Total Operating Balance (65,078)**

### Operating Revenue



### Operating Expense





Exceptional Children's Foundation

[www.ECF.net](http://www.ECF.net)

### **ECF MISSION**

The mission of Exceptional Children's Foundation (ECF) is to provide the highest quality services for children and adults who are challenged with developmental, learning and emotional disabilities - empowering them to reach their greatest potential.

### **ECF VISION**

Exceptional Children's Foundation (ECF) envisions a society in which all people with developmental, learning and emotional disabilities are valued and integrated in educational, social, work and residential settings.