


Gillis Center Inc.

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



The Gillis Mission is to help at-risk children and their families become contributing members of the community through education, counseling and social services.

Letter from the Chairman of the Board

Dear Friends,

During my time as a board member, I have become used to seeing positive outcomes for Gillis. But I must admit, 2007 was exceptional.

Thanks to Bank of America, we have been able to completely upgrade our kitchen equipment. The new, modern equipment makes it more efficient and economical to provide nutritious meals to our students – nearly 100,000 meals a year.

Another renovation project was begun – the upgrading of the common areas in two of our residential facilities. As a result of the efforts of Rockhurst High School students David Belpedio and Carter Clause, board member David Belpedio and his wife Jodi, and Lynn and Paul Clause, enough funds were raised to make this dream a reality. The renovation will be completed in 2008.

Through the generosity of KCP&L, we now have new lighting throughout all of our campus buildings – a necessity due to the obsolescence of our previous lighting fixtures. Other generous donors enabled us to install two new boilers and a back-up power generator.

Our holiday activities increased this year. Gift Gallery served more clients and more donors gave gifts to our residential boys. For the first time we were able to light the outside of one of the cottages. Thanks to dedicated staff and volunteers, these holiday activities continue to grow in an effort to meet an ever-increasing demand.

Gillis has formed new relationships and enhanced former relationships which benefited the campus in 2007 and will continue in the years to come. Thanks to Calvary Lutheran School, KCP&L, KC Can, K. C. Hopps, Ltd, the Jeep Club, Runners in Touch, and others for wanting to help Gillis.

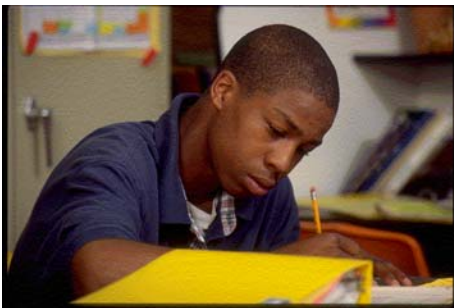
Gillis staff have been very busy learning a new software program called Pro-File. This program, which will be implemented in 2008, will assist all of our staff in meeting new, more stringent state record keeping requirements and provide a better source for tracking our clients and establishing outcomes.

Our two major fundraisers in 2007 were very successful. The net revenue for the Spirit Award banquet set a new record, and all the slots for our Golf Classic were sold out. The Development staff has done a great job.

Finally, the Gillis board devoted a great deal of time and thought to reviewing its goals and reexamining processes. As a result we have a reenergized board that is stronger and more involved. For example, two board members spend time mentoring our students. Two other board members provided significant pro bono work, which helps with our bottom line. Others gave generously of their time and expertise serving on numerous committees.

I believe we are justifiably proud of our accomplishments in 2007 and we look forward to continuing this excellent performance in 2008.

Charles “Bud” Bacon
Board Chair



Derik's Story

Gillis School has an incentive program for our students called STARS (Students That Achieve Responsibility and Success), where they earn points for positive behavior and academic productivity. The points are spent in the school store. Each level is reached by obtaining a certain number of points for a specified period of time. The highest level attainable is Platinum Level. Students that are on Platinum Level have to earn 97% of their points each week! Our first student to reach Platinum Level was Derik who remained at this level for 100 weeks!



Derik came to Gillis because he was having difficulty at his home school. He wouldn't listen to teachers, didn't want to play with the other kids, and would hit and kick. He was diagnosed with a mood disorder. Gillis was recommended as a school which could help Derik.

His first few months at Gillis were difficult. He didn't want to be here. But, he bonded with some important people - his teachers, his therapist and the school principal - and things started to get better. After the first year he wanted to come to school and would get upset when there were holidays or snow days and he couldn't attend.

When he came to Gillis he lived with his mother, Codie, and sister, Talysa. The family dynamic changed when his mother remarried. But, the family came to classes and with the help of Gillis staff, learned how to relate with one another.

Codie said that Sarah, his therapist, and the other Gillis staff who worked with Derik "are beyond wonderful. We wouldn't be where we are without them."

Derik has left Gillis and is doing well in school. Codie said that she could not have done it by herself and she is very appreciative of the Gillis "village" which helped Derik become the typical 7th grader he is today.

Letter From our President/CEO

Dear Friends:

I recently came upon a quote that expresses my gratitude to everyone who give so generously of their time, talent, heart and financial support to Gillis:

*"Thankfulness may consist merely of words.
Gratitude is shown in acts." David O. McKay*

I do feel confident in assuring all of you that at Gillis our thanks and gratitude to you are acted out every day in service to the amazing children and families that come to us for help. It is the acts of our youth workers who by their patience and comforting words develop glimmers of trust in children whose hearts have been broken too many times from beatings and abandonment by adults. It is in the acts of our teachers who never give up and teach children to succeed after they have consistently failed in schools due to behavior disruptions resulting from grief over violence in their homes or the loss of a parent to prison. And it is in the acts of our social workers who go into homes and help parents find ways to provide safety and nurturance to their children and keep them home even though they struggle with poverty, drug addiction or mental illness.

So while words may never be enough to thank you for all you do for Gillis as donors, volunteers or advocates, I hope you will remember that every day with your help we will strive to show our gratitude by acts aimed at healing and strengthening the children, families and community we are here to serve.

Mary Ellen Schaid
President/CEO



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Rachel lived with her two children – Carrie, 2, and Mary, 4 - in rural Missouri. One day Carrie hurt her knee and was taken to the emergency room for treatment. The doctor gave Rachel information and medication to help Carrie’s injury heal. As the injury was not healing, Rachel returned to the hospital four times. The doctor accused her of not following instructions and of not caring properly for Carrie. Rachel became irate as she had followed all of the instructions given.

The hospital reported Rachel’s case to Children’s Services as a possible child abuse situation. A Children’s Services social worker found that the house did not have running water or gas. It was recommended that the children be removed for their own protection.

The court contracted with Gillis to do an assessment. Our case manager visited the home and determined that it was spotless. “The house was cleaner than mine when my mother-in-law visits.” To get water the family carried two five gallon jugs of water from a neighbor’s. This is how they bathed, washed clothes, did the dishes, and cleaned the house.

The cause of the lack of water and gas was two fold: the landlord refused to fix the problems, and Rachel was too proud to apply for aid. Gillis staff arranged for Rachel and the two girls to move into subsidized housing.

As for Carrie’s diagnosis – it was incorrect. Rachel had been caring properly for Carrie, but the doctor had not prescribed the right course of treatment. When the treatment was changed, Carrie’s injury healed.

Another positive to this story. In helping Rachel resolve some of her problems through mentoring and training, it is hoped that the long-term family history of poverty will be broken.



2007 STATISTICAL INFORMATION

CAMPUS BASED SERVICES

A multi-disciplinary team approach helps children and families build upon their strengths so that they may find success in the community.

- ◆ 99 Children participated in residential treatment services
- ◆ 95 children participated in Day Treatment service from 22 school districts
- ◆ 84% were placed back in the home, with other family members, or with foster or adoptive families
- ◆ The average length of stay for Gillis residential children was 185 days
- ◆ 76% of Gillis day treatment students and 76% of residential students were from Jackson County.
- ◆ The STARS (Students That Accept Responsibility and Success) program achieved its goal that 95% of students would earn at least one STARS Award during the school year. On average, 35% or more of our students earn an award each quarter.



COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

A multi-disciplinary team approach to successfully transition children in out-of-home care back home and to help individuals of all ages with mental illness avoid hospitalization or achieve stability back in the community.



- ◆ 122 Jackson County families received Intensive In-Home Services. Of those families 89% were intact at closing.
- ◆ 50 families received IIS services from the Southeast Office, located in Warrensburg, MO.
- ◆ 53 families received IIS services from the North Kansas City office to prevent psychiatric hospitalization of a family member.
- ◆ 100 families participated in the Personal Transition Services, a one hour follow-up session with clients released from the hospital, ensuring the hospital stay was helpful and needed services were received, while establishing an aftercare plan for insurance purposes.
- ◆ 47 Jackson County families received assistance in transitioning a family member back into the home through the Family Reunion Services, an 8 to 12 week program of intensive counseling and support to help families who have had children removed and placed in an out-of-home placement. 39 of the families were intact at the end of six months and 41 of the families were intact at the end of 12 months.

VOLUNTEERS

- ◆ 504 volunteers gave more than 4,010 hours of their time, energy and talents to Gillis.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

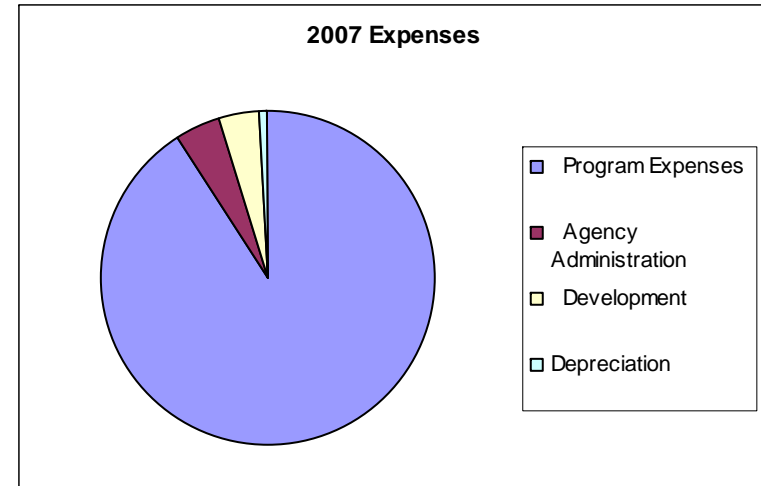
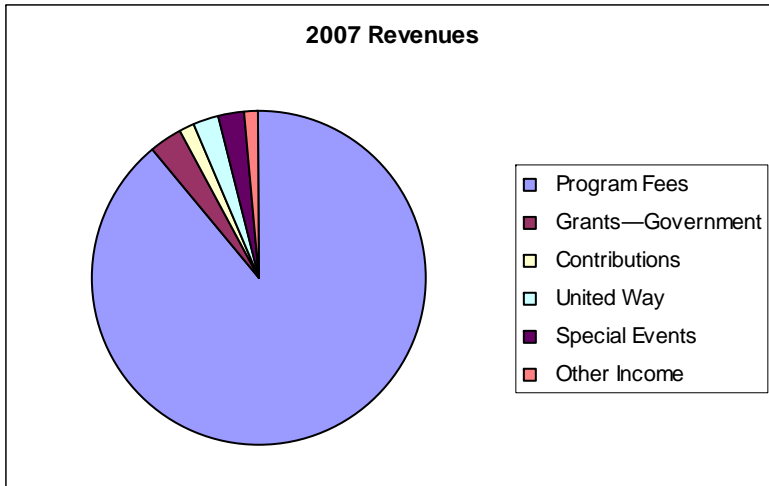
Gillis Center and Gillis Charities

Revenue

Program Fees	\$6,282,778.51
Grants—Government	237,194.47
Contributions	104,343.64
United Way	167,685.12
Special Events	187,588.88
Other Income	<u>94,045.77</u>
Total Revenue	\$7,074,636.39

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$6,484,943.92
Agency Administration	320,561.00
Development	274,854.00
Depreciation	<u>(66,364.51)</u>
Total Expenses	\$7,013,994.41



Additional Financial Information

The Restricted Account increased to \$382,846 in 2007 from \$222,934 in 2006.

The Permanent Endowment increased to \$1,659,008 in 2007 from \$1,557,634 in 2006.

The Board Designated Fund was established in 2007 with a contribution of \$176,700.

MORE GILLIS STORIES



SHE FOUND HER STRENGTH!

One of the families referred to our Intensive In-home Services (IIS) program was in great distress because the father was accused of sexually abusing one of the four children and was ordered to leave the home and have no contact with his children. Joan, the mother, had difficulty accepting this because she was devastated and frightened about how she would carry on alone.

Our IIS Social Worker went into the home and spent a lot of time with Joan who needed help that involved listening and helping her to process her own disbelief, anger, fear and grief while teaching her about the profound effect the abuse had on her child and the whole family and how important it was for her to be loving and supportive in spite of her difficulty believing this could happen. She worked hard on improving communication with her children and learned how to identify and access what she needed to be able to care for and protect them from this ever happening again. The family was linked to MOCSA for individual therapy for the victimized child and family therapy for all.

It took a little time for Joan and the children to understand how their lives had been impacted and accept that life going forward would be different. However Joan stepped up and provided the love, support and strength needed to keep the children safe and the family together.

Rachel Hodson, Assistant Coordinator of the IIS program said “We enjoyed working with this family and strengthening the bond the children have with their mother. Now we know they will get through anything together.”

ALYSSA’S STORY

Alyssa came to Gillis School when her home school district had exhausted all their options. She frequently ran from staff members, made inappropriate comments and was very shy and withdrawn. After a year at Gillis Alyssa’s behavior has shown a significant improvement. She no longer withdraws or runs away. She uses words rather than behaviors to express her needs.

During a recent all-school assembly Alyssa was singing quietly to a teacher. She was offered the opportunity to use the microphone and sing to the audience. She walked confidently to the principal and took the microphone. Out came her version of the “Star Spangled Banner,” which was correct in tone and pitch, but the lyrics were her own creation.

Alyssa’s mom and school district liaison were astonished to hear about the day’s assembly. Alyssa’s mom said, “Alyssa would never have done that a year ago and never would have been able to do that without Gillis!”

Since that time Alyssa sings “Happy Birthday” at assembly every Friday.



A Heartfelt "Thank You" to our 2007 Donors

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Margaret Kummerer

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Mrs. Sydney Cerier

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In Honor Of

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Alonda's Fitness Solutions

Lynn Newell

Martha Fuller

Emilia Bondsingram

Martha Fuller

Michael & Dana Hughes

Michael Hughes

John Adams
(2007 Volunteer of the Year)
Warren Johnson

Don and Paula Vanaman
Maureen Milazzo

Maddie Thorpe
Melissa Rock

Jim and Barbara Latta
William Slater

Andrew Nilges Endowment Fund



Luke Andrew Nilges, a youth care worker at Gillis, was one of the two people killed at Ward Parkway in early May 2007. It was a difficult time for everyone, especially some of the boys who lost another significant adult in their lives. The boys wanted to honor Andrew in a very special way so maroon wristbands were ordered. Staff and boys wore them and they were very prominent at the 2007 KCI Relays. They were so inspired that our team won the meet for the first time in several years.

There was also a memorial service attended by Andrew's family, friends,

students and staff. A tree was planted, and a plaque installed on campus in his memory.

Gillis established an Endowment Fund in Andrew's memory. Donations were received from:
Crittenton Behavioral Health Staff
The Davis A & Patricia E. Raffell Family Charitable Foundation
Harvest Graphics
Daniel Jensen
William Slater
John Stewart
Warnke Racing

This is a list of those who generously contributed to Gillis in 2007. Thank you to everyone who generously support our children and families.

Please direct any corrections or omissions to Carol Johnson at 816-508-3556 or carol.johnson@gillis.org



Dustin's Story

Dustin was a boy with developmental disabilities and behavioral challenges who didn't like school. He tried every excuse to miss school and as a result of his determination was absent and frequently tardy and was finally referred to Gillis.



During a life-skills class at Gillis last fall Dustin decided that his teacher "needed a surprise." In classroom conversations he had learned that his teacher liked pumpkin pie, but that her husband didn't, so she rarely made it at home.

Dustin enlisted the help of three classmates and swore them to secrecy. During their next life skills class the four students baked their teacher a pumpkin pie that she could "either share or eat by herself." Of course, the teacher was touched by their kindness and generosity and chose to share with the class.

Since the day of the pumpkin pie Dustin has been in class each day and he has even been on time!

Gillis is a 501(c)(3) organization. In accordance with IRS regulations your contribution is tax deductible.



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