MAKING IMPRESSIONS ON GENERATIONS

The Community Place of Greater Rochester 2005-2006
Participation in society can mean many things to different people. It can mean a college exploration program for an inner-city teenager, a job opportunity for a single mother on public assistance, or affordable housing for a family that helps them reduce living expenses and purchase health care coverage. The ability to participate in the many opportunities our society has to offer, however, is not the same for everyone.

The Community Place of Greater Rochester (CPGR) helps people from all walks of life, including the disadvantaged and marginalized, fulfill the many possibilities that exist in our society. People do not look to us for handouts; rather, they look to us for the tools and support they need to break through barriers and stand up on their own. Many times all it takes is one opportunity, one resource, or one piece of good advice for people to begin to build a better life for themselves and their community.

100 Years of Community Solutions
CPGR’s work started when the Association for Practical Housekeeping (APH), the earliest predecessor of The Community Place, was established in 1907. Settlement
houses like the APH formed to serve immigrants and other underrepresented members of society. Lewis Street Center (which the APH changed its name to in 1926), Genesee Settlement House (formed in 1918), and Eastside Community Center (established in 1958) were vital contributors to the settlement house movement in Rochester. The merger of Genesee Settlement House and Eastside Community Center in 2001 to form The Community Place, and the addition of Lewis Street Center a year later, combined the strengths and history of each organization and helped keep the settlement house movement in Rochester alive.

Today people from all segments of society – young children, teenagers, adults, families, the aging, and individuals with disabilities – receive our services. We primarily serve those living in the northeast sector of the city of Rochester, but many of our programs branch out into the greater Rochester area. By understanding the needs of all the communities we serve, adapting to meet those needs, working together with other agencies to ensure our clients receive the best services possible, and remaining fiscally responsible and efficient, we hope to continue our mission well into the future.
### Individual Service Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Offering</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Services</td>
<td>4,355</td>
<td>2,531*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Childhood</td>
<td>1,964</td>
<td>1,839</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Development</td>
<td>1,947</td>
<td>1,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aging Services</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Disabilities</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOST Program</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9,745</td>
<td>7,606*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In 2006 our reporting methods changed to no longer include one-time assistance programs in our total numbers.
Growth and Vision
Our facilities are located in the neighborhoods we serve, so we are able to stay in tune with the needs of the community around us and quickly adjust our services to better meet those needs. By maintaining a neighborhood-based approach to service, we can offer the best and most relevant services possible to everyone, including those without reliable transportation.

In addition to improving our existing programs and services, we have become a managing partner for two grassroots community organizations, providing them with administrative and fundraising support. Since 2004 we have partnered with The Rochester Step-Off Educational Foundation, Inc. (RSO), a youth development organization that focuses on the art of step and offers young people academic, social, and community development opportunities while engaging them with the world of higher education. RSO utilizes hundreds of volunteers in schools around the city and throughout the greater Rochester area, and since its inception in 1994 has disbursed more than $175,000 in scholarship money to participants. More recently, The Community Place partnered with Families and Friends of Murdered Children and Victims of Violence, Inc. (FFMCVV), an organization that provides support and resources to victims of violence and their families. Partnerships with these organizations will help ensure that they are able to continue serving the Rochester community effectively and efficiently.

To ensure more individuals and families have decent, affordable housing and to help grow the social and economic infrastructure of our community, The Community Place has also formed two limited liability corporations to help advance our Housing Opportunities for Sustainability and Transition (HOST) program. The corporations are responsible for acquiring, renovating, and managing properties in our service area and offering them at affordable rates to responsible individuals and families.

A Collaborative Approach
Seeking partnerships with local best-in-class service providers remains an integral part of our strategy for success. If we cannot provide a service effectively and efficiently, we partner with other organizations so our clients have access to the best services possible. This collaborative approach leads to innovation and efficiency, and builds a broad, solid foundation from which we can work.

Fiscal Responsibility
Staying successful in an increasingly competitive and uncertain economy is difficult for any company, but this is especially true for nonprofits. The Community Place relies on fiscal responsibility and operating efficiency to ensure our continued success now and into the future. During the past two years we have lowered our administrative and management costs to approximately 16% of operating expenses. Cutting these costs means more money is available for direct programming. We are also expanding our asset and revenue base to ensure fiscal vitality and decrease our reliance on grants and funding that may not be available in the future.

We are proud of our 100 years of service and look forward to continuing our work with individuals and families in our community. With a dedicated and forward-thinking staff and board of directors and strong partners and supporters, we will move into our next 100 years of helping those we serve participate in all our society has to offer.
During the past two years The Community Place has grown and adapted to meet the changing needs of the community we serve. The disadvantaged and marginalized members of our community face new challenges and hardships every day, and we look to find creative, effective ways to help them overcome these challenges. The following highlights show our growth and innovation during the past two years.

**HOST Program Expansion**
Our Housing Opportunities for Sustainability and Transition (HOST) program now has acquired and renovated six homes and two apartment buildings, one of which contains two commercial storefronts. We now have 26 total units of affordable housing for individuals and families.

**The Beacon Centers Youth Development Program**
We have introduced the Beacon Centers Youth Development Program, which along with our Pathways to 21 platform offers more comprehensive services and better prepares youth for college and the world of work.

**Economic Development Support**
A new part of the HOST program is aimed at providing support to entrepreneurs and business owners to enhance the economic viability of our community. We are currently running a pilot business incubation program in one of our commercial facilities.

**Managing Partnerships**
The Community Place is now the managing partner of two grassroots community organizations, the Rochester Step-Off Educational Foundation and Families and Friends of Murdered Children and Victims of Violence. The partnerships will help the organizations improve operational efficiencies and obtain new funding sources.

**Fiscal Improvements**
Administrative and management costs have been lowered to just 16% of operating expenses, freeing up more money for direct programming.

**Increasing Employment Opportunities**
Our Family Services Unit has initiated talks with local businesses to provide more job opportunities to our clients and others who may not otherwise hear about or be considered for them.
In the early 1900s we helped immigrants assimilate into American society by offering educational and skill-building opportunities and health services. Since then we have been updating and adding services to meet the changing needs of our community. Today Heriberto and other individuals and families receive the tools and resources they need to build a better life and a better community.
We have been providing support to people like Heriberto since 1907. The needs of our community and the challenges its members face have changed throughout the years, but our focus has not. We believe every person and family should have opportunities to build a better life, regardless of their current social, economic, or educational standing.

Each year hundreds of families utilize our Family Support Services, which provide a wide range of advocacy, counseling, and referral services. We also provide employability and work-related training, financial management training, and support groups so when an opportunity arises, our participants are ready to meet it head on.

Short-term crises are a reality for many families and can have a devastating impact on the well-being of all their members. To help families cope with these situations, our Family Emergency Services provide necessities like food, clothing, utility and rent assistance, vital household items, and more.

People like Heriberto know what it is like to be given a chance; each week he volunteers his time at our two food pantries.

*In 2006 we changed our reporting methods to no longer include one-time assistance programs in our total numbers.
Settlement houses have long provided a positive, nurturing environment for young children. Childcare services offered by our former agencies allowed parents to work while knowing their children were in a good place. Now we offer comprehensive early childhood services that reach not only children, but parents and caregivers as well.
Educational and developmental opportunities early in life are critical to the future well-being of children. Our Early Childhood Services offer a holistic approach by working with children, their parents, and their caregivers.

Angelena and other four- and five-year-olds in our Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Program grow academically, socially, and emotionally, and because we work directly with each child’s parents, learning doesn’t end in the classroom. Our UPK program is also one of the few in Rochester that provides transportation for participating children, eliminating a major barrier for many working parents.

Childcare providers utilize our Family Day Care Satellite to make sure they are providing the best services possible. We work collaboratively with several Family Childcare Satellite Network agencies to administer the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which reimburses childcare providers for nutritious meals and snacks they serve to children. We recruit and monitor childcare providers to ensure their sites meet CACFP guideline compliance and provide support if needed. We also offer licensed childcare providers, as well as those interested in becoming licensed, training classes covering health, safety, and more.
Providing youth with constructive activities and recreation in a safe environment has long been an important part of the work of settlement houses. Our wide range of youth services gives young people the opportunity to have fun and grow while preparing for higher education and the world of work.
Malvin and Anne Marie, like all teenagers growing up today, must meet demands from school and extra-curricular activities, deal with peer and environmental pressures, and confront issues with friends and family, all while enjoying their time being kids. Our Youth Services help teens navigate these challenges while giving them the tools and skills they will need to be successful in the future.

The Beacon Centers at The Community Place are designed to give young people social and academic support in a safe, structured environment during out-of-school time. The Beacon Centers, along with our Rochester After School Academy (RASA), Community After School Academy (CASA), and other youth development programs, aim to prepare teens like Malvin and Anne Marie for college, work, and life.

The Community Place offers many other services to youth, including a low-cost summer camp and case management services for young people and their families. We also are responsible for managing and monitoring collaborative services provided by a wide range of agencies.
Seniors are living longer, more productive lives. Our Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs have consistently grown since their inception, as more elders are using their time to give back to their community. Social activities and health and wellness programs for seniors also continue to be an important offering of settlement houses.
Espedito still has a lot to give: his wisdom, his time, and his kindness. As a volunteer in the Foster Grandparent Program, Espedito is able to enrich the lives of the children with whom he works. Our Foster Grandparents work in more than 35 area schools and childcare centers, giving extra support to hundreds of children each year.

Volunteers in our Senior Companion Program provide seniors and the frail elderly at area adult day programs, senior centers, and individual homes with a variety of services that help them live independently longer. Senior Companions help prepare meals, transport elders, and provide caregiver respite. All our Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions are 60 or older and meet income eligibility requirements.

The extensive offerings of our Senior Centers help elders stay healthy and socially active. We offer nutritious meals, exercise and health programs, social gatherings and day trips, and more. We also have caseworkers on hand to give support to those who may need more individualized care or are homebound.
For 100 years we have focused on giving people a hand up, not a handout. Our developmental disabilities services give individuals with disabilities the skills and tools they need to be more independent and successful. Our services also offer their families support, guidance, and respite.
Individuals with developmental disabilities do not always enjoy the same opportunities that others do, but that doesn’t mean they should not.

Salima and other youth in our The Sky is the Limit program participate in developmental and recreational activities that improve social skills and personal wellness. Other youth, especially those in jeopardy of losing their day or school placement, are offered transitional support and life option exploration through our Odyssey Transition Skills Program.

Individuals with developmental disabilities often face additional challenges, so our Medicaid Service Coordination develops, implements, and monitors Individualized Service Plans and provides advocacy and referral services for each individual. This assistance helps participants live independently and thrive, just as our Supported Housing Program does.

The families of individuals with developmental disabilities often need additional support and sometimes face social isolation. Our training programs for parents and guardians provide weekend respites, support groups, and other services to ensure the whole family remains healthy.
Building the strength of our community has long been our mission. The HOST Program decreases transience and spreads shared values established by the members of the community. It also enhances the economic strength of families and businesses and helps money stay in neighborhoods longer. These investments in our community will ensure community stability for years to come.
The fabric of communities is woven by people like Mary Beard. After her landlord passed away and her house became uninhabitable, she was faced with the possibility of having to move out of the neighborhood. She was, however, a neighborhood fixture, so The Community Place offered her the opportunity to rent one of the houses in our growing Housing Opportunities for Sustainability and Transition (HOST) Program.

The HOST Program reduces transience, helps stabilize families, and strengthens neighborhoods by acquiring and renovating neglected properties in our service area. After renovations are complete, the properties are rented to responsible residents at a low cost.

There are currently six houses, an apartment building with 13 residential units and a commercial laundry facility, and a mixed-use apartment building with six residential units and two commercial storefronts in the program. All of the buildings are in close proximity to our centers, so the people who live in them have easy access to our other programs and services.

In order to build the community’s economic infrastructure and create sustainable economies, the HOST Program also includes a small business incubator program and free tax preparation assistance. By supporting business development, we can keep money in the neighborhoods longer and help improve the overall quality of life in the community.
## STATEMENT OF UNRESTRICTED FUNCTIONAL PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting Services (Management &amp; General/Fundraising)</th>
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<td><strong>Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>Government Agencies</td>
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<td>United Way of Greater Rochester, Inc.</td>
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<td>Service Fees</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
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<td>Total Public Support and Revenue</td>
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<td>Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>Employee benefits and payroll taxes</td>
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<td>Occupancy</td>
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<td>Professional fees and services</td>
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<td>Travel and conferences</td>
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<td>Dues and subscriptions</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Excess (deficiency) of Public Support and Revenue over Operating Expenses before Allocation of Management and General Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation of Management and General Expenses</td>
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<td>Excess (Deficiency) of Public Support and Revenue over Operating Expenses</td>
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**Total**

$1,666,059

$4,925,894

$5,471,602

$496,355

(1,042,063)

(545,708)

(1,043,497)

1,043,497

—

(547,142)

1,434

(545,708)
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New York State Education Department
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About the Photographs

The pages in this report feature photographs of individuals and families who currently utilize our services. The framed photographs they hold are archival photographs taken during the past 100 years of people served by The Community Place and its former organizations: Lewis Street Center, Genesee Settlement House, and Eastside Community Center.
About the Cover
Our rich legacy of serving the Rochester community is personified by Richard Brindisi, a Lewis Street Center alum. Richard, who spent countless days at the center as a boy and young man, is also celebrating his centennial. He turned 100 in November, 2006.

Thanks to the following companies for their generous support and assistance in producing our 2005-2006 biennial report:
Design: Van Auken Design
Photography: Marten Czamanske Photography
Project Coordination: Mindseye Communications
Printing: Tucker Printers
How to Help

There are many ways individuals and companies can help CPGR in its mission of strengthening our community. You can provide monetary, product, or service donations; volunteer in one of our many programs; or help us get the word out about CPGR and our mission.

Please call us at 585-327-7200
or visit www.communityplace.org for more information.