Exceptional Children's Foundation
www.ECF.net

Transforming for a Lifetime

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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Dear Friends,

What does a positive transformation look like?

At ECF, it looks like a smile on a mother's face while watching her daughter with Down syndrome confidently interact with pre-school friends following graduation from our Early Start program. It's two high school seniors sharing a hug at the ECF Kayne Eras graduation ceremony after overcoming their learning and behavioral challenges to find their path to college. It's an adult with special needs earning his first paycheck at a community job because of the help of a job coach, and an artist selling her artwork for the first time. It's the independence gained by having your own apartment with the security of having an onsite support team, and it's activity and work programs that facilitate learning, growth, and a paycheck.

In 1946, ECF was founded on a powerful idea – empower those with special needs to reach their greatest potential. Over the last 67 years, we've remained true to the goal and we have built a world-class organization capable of delivering upon the important vision of our founders. Today, serving more people than ever before, we are transforming lives and giving all of our 3,200 clients and their families a new sense of accomplishment, self-reliance and purpose.

This annual report highlights a few of these transformational journeys and it serves as a reminder of what can happen when a talented staff, a dedicated board of directors, and exceptional group of donors come together around a common goal – making life better and more fulfilling for those with special needs, while strengthening community.

On behalf of our board and the entire staff, we thank you for your support and for being part of this transformative process. Because of you, no matter what their age, ability level or need, ECF is putting all of our clients on a positive path toward the future.

Sincerely,

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

Ralph Walter, D. Phil.
Chair of the Board of Directors

2012-2013 Program Outcomes

Clients Served

3,245	Clients and family members

Early Start

24,715	Home visits for families with infants and toddlers with developmental delays
10,778	Hours of speech and language therapy
4,307	Hours of Parent and Me Enrichment Groups
90%	Of parents increased their knowledge and skills to better support their children's developmental growth

Kayne Eras Center

7,080	Hours of school-based counseling
2,590	Hours of speech and occupational therapy
15,489	Hours of behavioral training
2,705	Hours of individual and family therapy
100%	Of the graduating class passed the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)
25	Graduates; 20 are attending a two or four year college

Financial Highlights

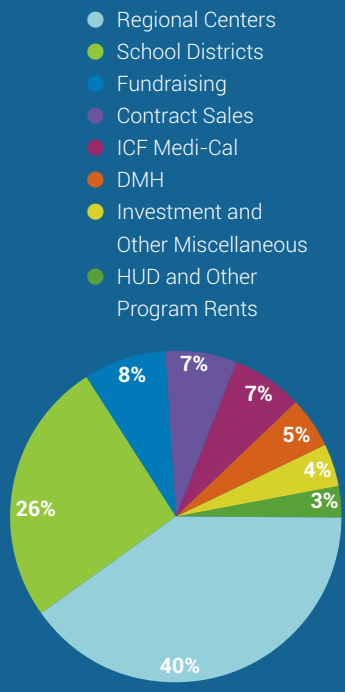
REVENUE

Program and Other Revenue	
Regional Centers - Tuition and Fees	$10,190,310
Unified School Districts - Tuition and Fees	5,312,133
Contract Sales	1,666,424
ICF Medi-Cal Fees	1,553,604
DMH Contract	1,062,579
Investment and Other Miscellaneous Income	1,024,307
HUD and Other Program Rents	746,332
Sale of Merchandise	51,020
Total Program and Other Revenue	**21,606,709**
Community Support	
Contributions	1,536,822
Fundraising Events (net of direct benefit costs)	118,007
Total Community Support	**1,654,829**
Total Revenue	**23,261,538**

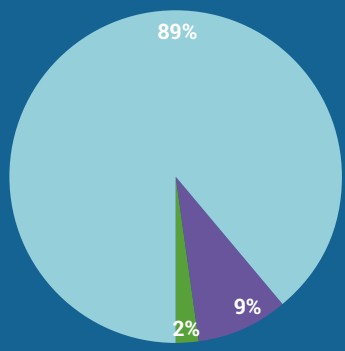
EXPENSE

Programs	
KEC School	6,408,889
Early Start	3,726,721
Residential Services	1,953,893
Supported Employment	1,814,530
Work Activity Centers (PAR)	1,734,032
Art Centers	1,429,082
Developmental Activities	1,411,597
Mental Health	1,068,351
Diagnostic and Therapy	948,379
HUD Properties	644,325
Total Program Expense	**21,139,799**
Administrative	
Administration	2,064,999
Development and Fundraising	518,194
Total Administrative Expense	**2,583,193**
Total Expense	**23,722,992**
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	**$(461,454)**

Revenue



Expense



554 Exceptional Donors

ECF thanks each of our donors for enabling us to provide the highest quality programs and services to our clients with special needs. To view a complete list of everyone who supported us in 2012-13, please visit www.ECF.net/donors.

Art Centers

125 Pieces of client art work sold

120 Clients who have had artwork featured in an exhibition

Supported Employment Program

20,925 Hours of job coaching for adults with developmental disabilities working in community jobs

96 Clients working in the community

36 Employers participating in SEP program

Residential Services

10,414 Hours of independent living training for adults with developmental disabilities living in their own apartments

> ***A lot of breakthroughs happen here.***
>
> *~ Gabriela Kayacan,*
> *Director of ECF Early Start Adams*

Christopher's mother was overwhelmed. Her little boy had been diagnosed with developmental delays and was struggling with even the most basic activities. The two-year-old would act out physically, throw constant tantrums and was unable to communicate with his parents. To his mother, Sara, the future looked bleak. Her last hope was ECF's Early Start program.

For more than a year and a half, Christopher attended Early Start classes and participated in one-on-one speech therapy sessions. It wasn't easy but because of the compassion, expertise and nurturing of his teachers and therapists he began making progress. Small steps became big successes. And eventually, Christopher was reaching major developmental milestones.

He was able to eat calmly and play with his classmates. He was learning to control his impulses and for the first time was communicating with the Early Start staff and his parents. It was enough to give his mother hope for a better future.

"A lot of breakthroughs happen here. And that changes the expectations about what is possible. What we teach here stays with them forever," explains Gabriela.

CHRISTOPHER

Exceptional Children's Foundation

Early Start Program

As 90% of a child's brain development occurs in the first three years of life, our Early Start program is designed to improve outcomes for children 0-3 with disabilities, and their families. Early and intensive interventions and early childhood education services are provided in community center settings and via home visits. A range of therapies and structured activities help children to develop language, cognitive and social skills, and motor control. A range of critical assistance such as family therapy, parent support groups and referral to other community resources is provided to family members.

I feel like someone cares for me at Kayne Eras. Everything is going to be okay now.

~ *Audreona,*
5th grader at ECF's Kayne Eras Center

Audreona didn't fit in at her neighborhood school. She talked too much, asked too many questions and had trouble controlling her impulses. As a result, her teachers decided she was a disruption and her classmates teased and bullied her.

"My old school was horrible. I was always scared that I would get beaten up," recalls Audreona.

Everything changed for Audreona when she transferred to ECF's Kayne Eras Center (KEC).

With small class sizes, special attention from teachers, access to counselors, tutoring, and an enrichment program second to none, KEC is doing what most public schools can't - reaching the kids labelled "unteachable."

Today, the 5th grader walks the school halls with a confidence and youthful exuberance that evokes a sense of hope and optimism. But her transformation didn't happen overnight. It required hard work and the constant support and nurturing of the KEC teachers and staff.

Now, instead of worrying about her safety, Audreona is looking to the future. She wants to be a scientist and work for NASA. Her teachers have no doubt that the sky is the limit for this exceptional young lady.

AUDREONA

Kayne Eras Center

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the ECF Kayne Eras Center (KEC) is a K-12 school for children who are challenged by learning, emotional, behavioral or developmental difficulties. Our educational approach includes intensive, specialized programming and innovative strategies to meet the unique needs of each child and his or her family.

Students learn how to learn through integrated programs that offer small classes, therapeutic arts and enrichment activities, and a range of academic activities. This approach results in students functioning at their highest abilities, learning how to problem solve and reaching their full potential.

Additional services offered at KEC include: a Mental Health Program that provides counseling services to address emotional and behavioral issues, and a Diagnostic and Therapeutic Center that provides a range of testing and therapy services.

> ***No matter how you start life, you have the capacity to grow.***
>
> *~ Helen Lewis,*
> *DAC Manager*

Fred is one of those special souls who make you smile simply by saying hello. Because of his good nature, compassion for others and happy demeanor, you would never know that Fred experienced a "failure to thrive" as a baby.

Born with a congenital disorder that resulted in a cognitive impairment and neglected by his birth parents, Fred faced a challenging future. But Fred's adoptive parents nurtured and supported their son. They encouraged him to get the help he needed including his participation in ECF's Work Readiness Program.

One of Fred's initial assignments was volunteering with ECF's Developmental Activity Center (DAC), which provides life-skills training and other enrichment services for adults with severe and profound disabilities. Fred did so well as a volunteer that he graduated to ECF's Supported Employment Program. Working with a job coach, he was offered several career opportunities including a Client Aide position at the very DAC where he volunteered.

Fred accepted the DAC job and two and a half years later he is still bringing his infectious enthusiasm and determination to his work each and every day. From supervising field trips to teaching basic life skills, Fred is always there with a helping hand. And as a former client, Fred has a special empathy for those under his care. He is a daily reminder of how anyone can grow and succeed with the right support.

FRED

Adult Services

ECF offers a wide array of services designed to help adults with developmental disabilities to build their independence and self-esteem. These programs allow adults of all ages to explore and cultivate a broad range of life skills, with the ultimate goal of helping them find meaning and purpose in their lives.

Developmental Activity Center – Day programs including recreation, socialization, cooking and personal grooming activities help adults learn self-help and skills development.

Art Centers – Fine art instruction helps clients develop self-expression and a sense of accomplishment. Client artists have exhibited their work at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Armory in NYC, and the Los Angeles Art Show. ECF also supports and promotes the sale of clients' artwork, with proceeds split between the artist and the Art Center program.

Work Activity / PAR Services – Clients learn practical work skills, build social habits, and earn a paycheck by performing collating and assembly work.

I know I can go to the ECF staff for help.

~ Karrmen,
ECF Residential Services and
Supported Employment Client

At 4:00am Karrmen is awake and getting ready for work. She has to catch the bus for her hour-long trip to her job at the Federal Building in Westwood. Karrmen is happy to be working and even happier to have a place of her own. She has built a nice life for herself.

But Karrmen, who is developmentally disabled, isn't doing any of this alone. She is living at an ECF independent living apartment building and working through ECF's Supported Employment Program.

"We assist Karrmen in being independent," explains Celia Montes, Program Administrator for ECF's Independent Living Program. "We help her with basic life skills such as budgeting, cooking and communicating. This support allows her to live her life without going off course or getting into trouble."

While she's at work, Karrmen is supported by ECF job coaches who keep an eye on her progress and help her overcome any issues that may arise during the day. From the moment she gets up until she goes to bed, ECF staff is keeping a watchful eye on her.

"If I have a concern or something I am dealing with, I know that I can go to the ECF staff for help," said Karrmen. "But I still have my independence."

KARRMEN

Supported Employment – Adults are placed in community jobs while receiving training and on-site support; placements include grocery stores, car dealerships, and restaurants, among others.

Residential Services – A variety of housing options and support services are offered, depending on individual needs, including two apartment complexes, higher level care facilities and supported living for clients in their own homes.

All ECF Programs

ECF is committed to making a difference to those most in need by providing easy access to high quality community services. A key feature of all our programs is the inclusion of family members and/or caregivers, to provide them with the information and support they need to be the strongest supporters and advocates they can be for their loved ones. This partnership between staff, clients and family members truly empowers each client to reach their greatest potential.

ECF Service Locations in Los Angeles County

ADMINISTRATION

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Kayne Eras Center
5350 Machado Road
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 737-9393

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

Early Start Arleta
14061 Terra Bella Street
Arleta, CA 91331
(818) 830-6411

ADULT SERVICES

Work Activity Programs (PAR)

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

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

Developmental Activity Centers

DAC/ADP Culver City
8740 Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232
(310) 204-3300

S. Mark Taper Center for Exceptional Citizens
1430 Venice Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90006
(213) 748-3556

Art Centers

West LA Art Center
8740 Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232
(310) 204-3300

Downtown Art Center & Art Gallery
828 South Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90014
(213) 627-7590

San Pedro Art Center
1125 S. Gaffey Street
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 519-8527

South Los Angeles Art Center
2616 S. Hobart Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90018
(323) 766-7503

Residential Services

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

Barman Home
10918 Barman Avenue
Culver City, CA 90232
(310) 559-0922

Keystone Home
4215 Keystone Avenue
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 838-1109

Fairbanks Home
11124 Fairbanks Avenue
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 915-6606

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

Valverde Home
7600 Vanalden Avenue
Reseda, CA 91335
(818) 342-3826

ECF Mission

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

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