SARANAM

Central's Family Transitions Assistance

ANNUAL REPORT ~ 2005

Saranam 2005

Saranam experienced many significant changes during 2005. It was decided that Saranam should became a Limited Liability Company (LLC) owned by Central United Methodist Church, which served to isolate the liability of Saranam from the Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment and Central UMC. Saranam also received its designation as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Both of these structures enable Saranam, LLC to operate as a ministry of the church as well as enable it to apply for and receive funding from outside entities without having to "pass through" Central UMC – essential for opportunities to receive grant monies.

There were also changes in the Council on Homeless Ministries (CHM), which serves as Saranam's Board of Directors. Thank you to retiring directors Jens Deichmann and Michele Humes and to Claudia Crawford, who left the Council when she came onto Central's staff as Business Administrator. Welcome to new directors Traci Bailey, Dick Reinhart and Claudia Ryan. Five new members will be added to the Board during 2006.

The General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church provided Saranam with a US-2 missionary to serve for the next two years. Laura Ralston joined our team in August 2005, as Support Services Coordinator, responsible for coordinating activities and providing some case management with the families. Laura is also a liaison between the community and the program and assists in coordinating our volunteers.

Building a sense of community is critical to the success of the families in Saranam. The Board of Directors, with the support of the members of Central UMC, voted to purchase a 24 unit apartment complex. Another LLC, The Frances Thaxton Ash Homes, LLC, (FTA Homes) was established by Central UMC for the purpose of owning property. The building is leased to Saranam for use and management, and all of the families in the program are now in their own apartments in the same location. In addition, and because of these apartments, Saranam moved the administrative offices and classroom to a location within walking distance of the residents' apartments. This has resulted in a marked difference in the ways everyone involved with Saranam has been able to build community in this much more therapeutic environment. Our families are closer (in proximity as well as in building relationships), attendance in class is more consistent and the entire program is much more effective in every way.

2005 also saw Saranam implement specific strategic planning. CHM developed a three year vision for the program which includes a physical facility, training, office and child care space, the desire for a close connection with Central with an increasing education and fundraising component within the community at large, proven programming, board development and a solid financial plan. Near the end of the year, more grant applications were in process and a fundraising plan was established that will include additional grant applications, a planned giving campaign and much more community education and awareness for 2006.

However, the most important parts of working to end homelessness in families come from the families themselves. What a privilege it is to work with our capable, insightful and caring community of families. We have seen some families take the courageous step into vocational training while others began their journey toward caring and supporting themselves and their families. Saranam is about being part of lives which are transformed and the families in Saranam make that possible.

Core Values

As a family of faith working to end homelessness in families, we demonstrate these core values in our words and in our deeds.

Respect

We are inspired with a sense of grace, love and compassion, thus we honor each other as diverse, unique, and worthy individuals.

Transformation

We seek to provide opportunities for comprehensive change both in outer basic needs fulfillment as well as inner change in character and spirit. We, the church will be touched with the grace of transformation through service opportunities.

Empowerment

We provide avenues by which families develop their skills to become independent through education and training, sharing and mentoring.

Integrity

We adhere to principles of character, responsibility, truthfulness and clear communication.

Faithfulness

We understand that living a Christian faith involves taking risks and we are willing to learn the lessons that risk teaches. We invite others to be a part of our family of faith.

Compassion

We demonstrate social concern by a conscious involvement with needy families, expressing grace as a part of our community.

Mission Statement

To transform the lives of homeless persons – physically, emotionally, educationally and spiritually, through the faithful stewardship of the Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment and the active personal engagement of the congregation of Central United Methodist Church.

Vision

Saranam is a 2-year residential program made possible by the generous gift of the Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment, offering a range of services to assist families in transitioning beyond homelessness.

Importance of Community

Ending homelessness is a challenging task.

We believe the underlying causes of homelessness go beyond the most often cited causes: domestic violence, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, poor economy, mental illness, substance abuse, lack of public assistance. These are certainly important factors. However, the lack of and loss of community and support systems is the underlying cause of homelessness, and thus relationship-building is crucial and is intentionally incorporated into every aspect of this ministry!

Our goal is to assist homeless families to become self-sufficient and productive members of the community at large and to provide opportunities for them to build relationships that encourage them to reach their human and spiritual potential.

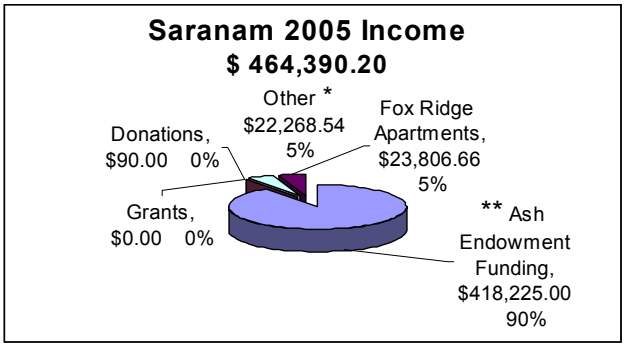
Families visit Museum of Natural History

Learning can be Fun!

Volunteers and staff are invited to assist in teaching, mentoring, encouraging, celebrating and walking with families in the program -- demonstrating the value of healthy relationships that form as a result of strong community. In this way, we share the grace found within this Christian community of faith.

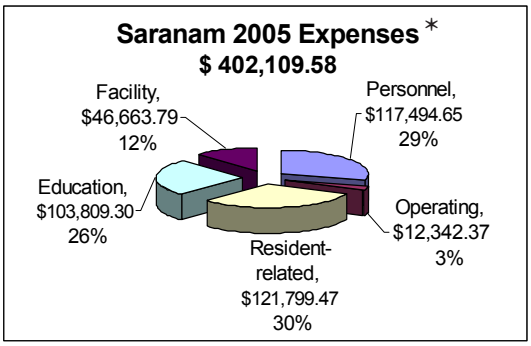
Helping becomes a reciprocal relationship. Both the homeless families and those working in this program with them will be transformed. Saranam's specialized setting and intentional community is a unique transitional housing program.

Saranam, LLC ~ 2005 Financial Summary

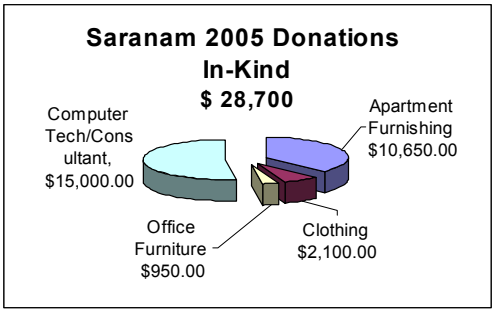


* Reimbursements from FTA Homes for expenses incurred by purchase of apartments and other refunds (eg. damage deposits, QWest, ect.)

**Ash Endowment Funding amount from prior years' (2002-2004) accumulated earnings



* $161,176 under budget



Volunteers

Number of volunteers: 60

Number of volunteer hours: 2050

Saranam thanks our 2005 donors and volunteers!
We truly could not do all that we do without the time, energy, talent and support of these generous individuals.

Expense detail

Personnel -

Executive Director
Case Manager
Support Services Coordinator (US-2 missionary)
Administrative Assistant (part-time for 3/4 of the year)
Bookkeeper (part-time)

Operating Expense includes:

office equipment, supplies, printing, postage and professional expenses

Facility includes:

office/classroom rent and bills, storage and

Fox Ridge Apartments Expenses:

lease payment to FTA Homes ($22,104)

rental payments made directly to Saranam at closing then transferred to management company ($7950)

Resident Expenses:

hotel & meals (for applicant families);
apartment rent ($45,000), utilities and rental insurance;
living supplies, toiletries, initial stocking of kitchen-pantry;
weekly stipend (cash to families for laundry etc.);
child care ($50,700); transportation (bus passes/gas cards);
drug tests; background checks (at application); counseling

During 2005 ~ Saranam Housed 11 families

4 accepted in 2005 ~ 7 accepted in 2004

Household makeup

5 are 2-parent housenolds
6 are 1-parent households
1 single male
5 single female

Number of Adults ~ 16

Age range
18-25 ~ 6
26-35 ~ 8
36+ ~ 2

Gender
Female ~ 12
Male ~ 4

Number of Children ~ 28

Infant to age 5 ~ 14
Ages 6 - 10 ~ 12
Age 11+ ~ 2

Average age of adults housed: 28.3
Average age of children housed: 5.3
Average age of ALL housed: 13.7

Ethnicities
African American ~ 9
Caucasian ~ 3
Hispanic ~ 8
Native American ~ 24

Education Level
Completed 6th grade ~ 1
Completed 9th grade ~ 2
Completed 10th grade ~ 1
Completed 11th grade ~ 3
High School Diploma ~ 6
GED ~ 3

Life Skills and Basic Education

Receiving training in-house

10 families ~ 14 adults participating

Ethnicities
African American ~ 3
Caucasian ~ 2
Hispanic ~ 3
Native American ~ 6

Average education level completed is 10th grade. But after initial assessment, test scores indicate actual proficiency of between 6th and 8th grades.

Receiving Vocational Training ~ 4 adults

Type of Training
Medical Assistant ~ 3
Heating & Air ~ 1

Ethnicities
Hispanic ~ 1
Native American ~ 3

One of these four received a GED as a result of the Saranam program.

Contributing factors of homelessness in Saranam families are:

Substance abuse	73%
Domestic violence	36%
Mental health	36%
Family rejection	27%
Health	18%
Low self-esteem	18%
Born into poverty	18%

Fourteen Families applied for the Saranam program in 2005

(4 were accepted ~ see above)

Household makeup

5 were 2-parent housenolds
9 were 1-parent households

Number of Adults ~ 19

Age range
18-25 ~ 8
26-35 ~ 5
36+ ~ 6

Gender
Female ~ 15
Male ~ 4

Number of Children ~ 35

Infant to age 5 ~ 16
Ages 6 - 10 ~ 15
Age 11+ ~ 4

Ethnicities
African American ~ 21
Caucasian ~ 4
Hispanic ~ 24
Native American ~ 4
Unknown ~ 1

Average age of adults applicants: 29.9
Average age of children applicants: 5.6
Average age of ALL applicants: 14.3

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Board of Directors

Council on Homeless Ministries
Traci Bailey (2006)
Nicole Gates (2006)
Jim Tanzola (2006)
Barbara Allender (2007)
Nancy Jackson (2007)
Tom Hoover (2007)
Donna Berry (2008)
Dick Reinhart (2008)
Claudia Ryan (2008)
Stephen McElroy
Senior Pastor, Central UMC

2005 Retiring Directors

Jens Deichmann
Michele Humes

Staff

Executive Director .....Tracy Sharp, MA, LPC
Case Manager ..... Eddie DeCristofaro
Support Services Coordinator ..... Laura Ralston
"2005 Annual Report" editor .... Leila Norris

Saranam, LLC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization
owned and operated by:
Central United Methodist Church
1615 Copper Ave. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
505.243.7834

Services

Housing

Each family is provided with a furnished apartment in order to have a home that will then facilitate stability. All families are located in the same apartment complex in order to encourage the formation of community.

Case Management:

General: Families are provided with daily support and advocacy from the case manager. Accountability is an important piece of the transition out of homelessness. Finding resources and dealing with issues can be stressful, but with appropriate support it can be accomplished.

Transportation: Bus passes or gas cards are provided for families each month. In addition, transportation is provided for some appointments as well as weekly shopping trips for groceries. Transportation is provided to allow the families to be self-sufficient in traveling throughout the city.

Counseling: Assistance in obtaining counseling services is provided for every family. Various services are utilized, including but not limited to individual counseling, family counseling and counseling for drug and alcohol abuse. These services are provided in order to address the issues that may have been contributing factors in becoming homeless. Most Saranam families receive some sort of counseling.

Education:

Life Skills and Basic Education: In the first nine months of the program, adults participate in life skills and basic education courses provided in-house by TVI. Some of the topics covered are GED, literacy, computer skills, parenting, financial management, nutrition, health and hygiene, communication and domestic violence, drug & alcohol education. This step prepares adults for vocational training and promotes holistic learning.

Vocational Education: Following basic education, adults pursue certificates from a trade school such as TVI or PIMA. Obtaining a certificate in a trade allows for more job opportunities and increases earning potential. Saranam provides some scholarship money as well as assistance in attaining other monies for vocational training.

Childcare: Childcare is provided for all children. This includes full time childcare for children not in school as well as before and after school care for the school age children. Childcare plays an important role in the success of the adults who are in school and in the workforce. Adults must be comfortable with the care of their children so they can have the time and be able to focus on their classes and jobs. Each family chooses childcare providers for their children that meet their specific schedules and needs.