

2009
Annual
Report



Mothers' Club
Family Learning Center





*seeds grow at
mothers' club*



from our executive director and president

2009 will be remembered as a year in which many seeds took root and new seeds were planted at Mothers' Club. We had settled into our new home and began to expand our programs. It was time to begin a new strategic planning process - a process that happened to coincide with one of our nation's worst economic downturns. While we defined a vision for the future to broaden our outreach to families, we were forced to acknowledge the painful reality that we needed to make cost reductions in the short-term.

But, as Mothers' Club has learned in the past, challenges can lead to opportunities; just as germinating seeds can lead to harvesting fruit. We remembered that, in 2006, we set out to design a permanent home that would position Mothers' Club to take advantage of numerous funding opportunities in the future.

We envisioned an early childhood center that would be licensed and meet the highest quality standards for care and development; adult education classrooms that would be quiet, flexible, and inspiring learning spaces; and kitchens that would not only support the nutritional needs of hundreds of children, but would allow us to teach parents how to maintain healthy lifestyles.

And as a result of that clear vision, the first of our seedlings sprouted in January 2009 when Mothers' Club partnered with Los Angeles Universal Preschool ("LAUP") to fund our pre-kindergarten classroom. LAUP's evaluator assessed the classroom using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale. Mothers' Club received the highest rating (6.85 out



Executive Director Sue Kujawa & President Judy Smith Asbury with children at Mothers' Club.

of 7) of any LAUP program in the county (currently, LAUP funds more than 100 licensed preschool centers across Los Angeles County).

Next, a sapling sprouted from our long-time partnership with Pasadena City College ("PCC"), which has provided parent education classes at our Center for almost 40 years. We proposed that PCC provide English as a second language classes 4 days each week in our new adult education rooms. PCC responded favorably and now fully funds two morning ESL classes.

Finally, we applied for the federal food program to provide nutritious breakfast, lunch and snacks to the children in our care.

In all, seeds we planted four years ago are producing more than \$150,000 in funding and services for

the families in our programs. Their root systems enabled us to finish 2009 with a balanced budget and begin 2010 confidently - with plans to serve more families than ever.

It is of course the seeds we plant with families that are most important. In 2009, more than 100 parents with 120 children blossomed in our programs. They were nurtured by our caring staff through programs that are made possible by so many like you in our community. We are deeply grateful to everyone who provides the on-going attention, including the fertilizer, needed to grow healthy and vibrant families.

Thank you for being one of our gardeners.

Susan Kujawa, *Executive Director*
Judy Smith Asbury, *President*

Broaden our Reach

2009 strategic vision

Mothers' Club will expand its positive impact on families by focusing on three inter-related commitments:

1. Continue strengthening our intensive, relationship-based core morning program;
2. Expand programs for families with children 0-5; and
3. Become an active model for other programs and providers in the fields of parent engagement and parent education, early childhood education, family literacy, and mental health.





strategic goals

- ◆ **Program Development:** We will develop and implement programs and activities to support all three aspects of our strategic vision.
- ◆ **Fundraising:** We will increase our long-term capacity to sustain programs and on-going operations by continuing to diversify our funding streams to include a broad individual donor base with the capacity to make major and planned gifts, foundations, local businesses and corporations, government grants and partnerships with complementary agencies and institutions.
- ◆ **Outreach:** We will have multiple opportunities for community members to become engaged with Mothers' Club. We will have defined key messages and marketing strategies that meet the evolving technology and communication needs of our diverse stakeholders.
- ◆ **Board Development:** We will attract and maintain highly qualified Board members who are engaged in our mission and committed to securing and leveraging financial resources for the agency. Board members will have well-defined roles and responsibilities and possess the diverse expertise needed to sustain and broaden the impact of our mission.
- ◆ **Organizational Structure:** We will maintain an adaptive and responsive organizational structure that will support the growing needs of the organization.
- ◆ **Staff Retention:** We will recruit and retain highly qualified staff by offering competitive salaries, benefits and professional development.

A Model for Others

Mothers' Club

our mission & guiding principles

Mothers' Club Family Learning Center prepares families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life. Our programs are built on two guiding principles: in order for significant, long-term change to occur within a family, you must reach both parent and child and educate them together; and, the most critical time to reach a family is when children are proven to be most vulnerable and impressionable, between birth and 5 years-old.

the power of two: parent & child growing together

We fulfill our mission by providing FREE programs to disadvantaged families with children ages 0-5. In all programs, mothers and children learn side by side, gaining the knowledge and skills they will need to break out of poverty. National research and our own evaluation results confirm that educating a parent and child together is an irrefutable way to promote long-term, positive change within a family and a community.

investing in prevention

Research has proven that children from low-income and minority families who participate in quality early childhood education programs with intensive parent participation are less likely to drop out of school, wind up in the juvenile system, in gangs, or become pregnant. We are investing in the most vulnerable persons in our society - babies and preschoolers - investments that are proven to pay off in the future and better our community.



Programs Results

family literacy

Our core family literacy program served a total of 78 parents with 90 children from 6 weeks to 5 years old. The program was offered Monday-Friday from 8:30am - 12pm for 11 months. While children benefited from quality early childhood education, mothers learned parenting and leadership skills, increased their own literacy skills, developed friendships and a network of support, and received an array of family support services. Program outcomes include:



2009 Outcomes

■ state benchmark ■ Mothers' Club outcome

preschoolers achieving significant gains in verbal ability 60% 91%

adult learners achieving significant gains in English writing skills 60% 80%

parents supporting children's literacy development at home 60% 87%

families who reached their goals or completed full program year 75% 98%

first connections

First Connections served a total of 24 parents with 29 children, and was offered from Monday-Wednesday from 1:30-3:30pm, for 10 months. This program is focused on mothers with infants and toddlers and develops parenting skills and community among mothers, while strengthening the early bonds between mothers and their babies.

To monitor the effectiveness of this new program, we gathered process evaluation data on the program's overall implementation (program hours, enrollment, attendance, participant satisfaction, etc.) and the Ages and Stages Child Monitoring System. In 2009, five infants were identified and referred to specialized services for developmental delays.



from a mother

I am a mother of two girls, Lesly (2 years and eight months-old) and Bonnie (16 months-old). I have been attending the *First Connections* program for 1 year and already it has changed my life for the best. When I started coming to Mothers' Club, I was scared because I didn't know what I was going to do here. But with time I realized that this was what I was looking for - to become a better parent for my girls. I have learned to understand Lesly and to communicate with her without any words. I learned how to discipline my girls without spanking them.

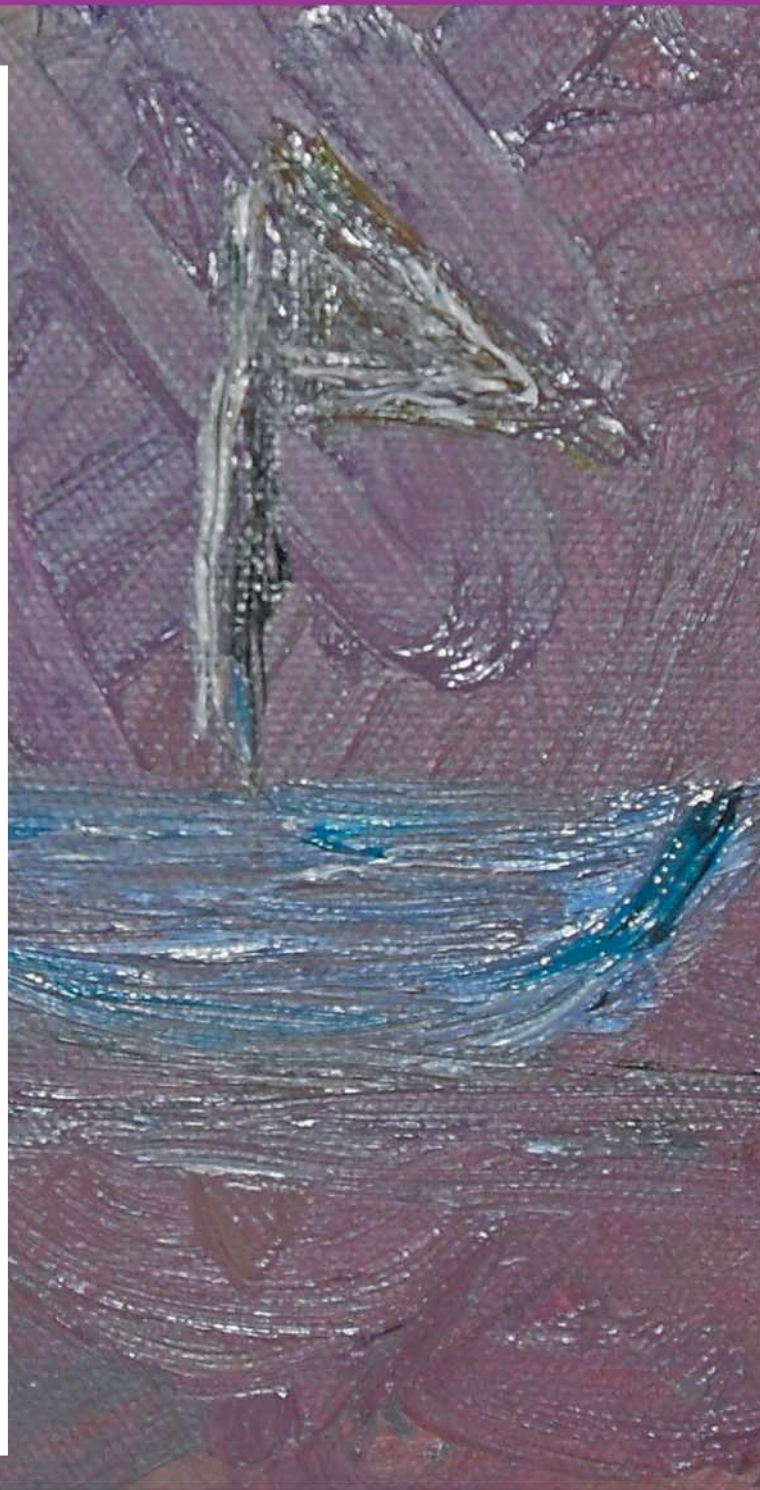
I have seen a difference in Lesly. She expresses herself more and more every day. She likes to share her toys and she is more independent; loves to sing the songs that we sing here in circle time; and her vocabulary has grown because of her teachers.

For my little one - when she was 7 months old I was worried that there was something wrong with her because she was not doing anything that a 7 month old baby should be doing. I told her doctor that I was concerned, but he kept saying that she was OK. It made me happy to see that Mothers' Club noticed that she was behind in her development, too. They had a meeting with me and my partner and told us where to go and what to do. I was so happy to see that they care about my little one, that she was not just another kid in the class. So, because I did what they told me to do, my daughter is in Physical Therapy. Now she is crawling and I know she soon will learn how to walk.

For me, I feel that every time I am here I learn something new to become a better parent for them and for me. Even my husband has learned from Mothers' Club because when he is off from work he comes with us and because I tell him what I have learned that day. I look forward to Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays to be here. I like it so much that whenever I see a mom with a little baby I tell them about Mothers' Club.

I know that babies don't come with an instruction book-but Mothers' Club is close to being a book.

Yakelyn Hernandez, October 2009



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*financial statements**fiscal year ending June 30, 2009*

<i>ASSETS</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2008</i>
Cash	433,712	667,702
Investments, at fair value	182,822	181,061
Grants receivable	209,022	241,644
Prepaid expenses	14,017	16,056
Unconditional promises to give	258,359	540,996
Property and equipment, net	6,333,326	6,494,886
TOTAL ASSETS	7,431,258	8,142,345
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	31,469	29,398
Note payable	-	569,195
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	6,892,074	6,057,430
Temporarily restricted	401,715	1,385,322
Permanently restricted	106,000	101,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	7,399,789	7,543,752
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$7,431,258	\$8,142,345
<i>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2008</i>
Contributions	956,634	1,162,396
Capital campaign contributions	18,792	1,653,119
Donated Services	-	82,600
Interest and dividend income	5,884	19,008
Loss on disposition of fixed assets	(1,250)	(14,399)
Net unrealized/realized gain on investments	(11,742)	(8,069)
Special events	78,336	69,539
Other	39,183	-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	1,085,837	2,964,194
EXPENSES		
Program Services	926,089	837,841
General and administrative	124,565	122,501
Fundraising	179,146	163,852
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,229,800	1,124,194
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(143,963)	1,840,000
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	7,453,752	5,703,752
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$7,399,789	\$7,453,752



Mothers' Club

Family Learning Center

2009 Annual Report

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annual report artwork

Mothers' Club preschoolers

graphic elements - Corinne Cortinas

editing & layout - Sarah E. Orth



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