

MATTIE RHODES CENTER
Brightening Lives. Building Futures.

2007 Annual Report



Our Mission

Mattie Rhodes Center bridges cultures and communities through arts, mental health and social services. We empower individuals and families through culturally competent, bilingual services in a respectful and compassionate environment.

Our Vision

We envision a community where individuals and families reach their full potential in a healthy, safe and creative environment. We are a Midwest leader on Latino issues and cultural competency.

Greetings From the Executive Director



This year, the Mattie Rhodes Center enters its 114th year of serving the Kansas City area. Our organization remains strong thanks to a durable foundation of dedicated volunteers and employees as well as the incredible generosity of our supporters. While we are one of the area's oldest and most established nonprofit organizations, we recognize the need to adapt to the new challenges of today. We must look inward to examine our strengths and weaknesses in order to improve the realization of our mission.

With unprecedented growth of the Hispanic population, the needs of the communities that we serve are increasing rapidly. This demographic reality, along with a weakening economy and public resources that are stretched around the globe, has given rise to a challenging financial climate. However, the Mattie Rhodes Center remains undaunted in its commitment to excellence in all areas of service. In 2007 we entered a period of self-reflection and have identified several areas where improvements are needed if we are to ensure that our mission is supported by our staff and our programs and that we are fully accountable to our donors.

Following the recommendation of the Executive Service Corps, we have worked to improve our service delivery by strengthening our internal systems. Specifically, we have enhanced our Human Resources Department, and initiated a client database for tracking progress and outcomes. We have reconfigured our Development Department with an eye for pursuing diverse sources of funding through individual and corporate donors to ensure financial sustainability. We have also created and filled a financial controller position, which will manage funds and provide leadership in increasing organizational efficiency.

Throughout this period of self analysis, we have continued to respond to the needs of our clients. In the Northeast neighborhood, an area characterized by intense need and few resources, we are expanding and refining programming initiatives in response to the concerns of the community. We are proud to have increased our presence in the art community with the acquisition of the Hand in Hand folk art collection, and are working to maximize the impact of this valuable asset in our art programming.

2007 marked a time of analysis with a view toward future stability. We will continue to keep our spirit of service and compassion at the forefront of all that we do, and as an organization we will remain strong so that we can strengthen the communities that we serve. We will continue to emphasize financial sustainability and in the next year, we will embark on a Caretaking Campaign, which will raise funds desperately needed for properly maintaining our aging facilities (i.e. replacing roof, installing new heating and cooling systems and increasing accessibility). We are also building on the success of our programs in the Northeast area by using them as a model for other communities with similar needs. In future years we envision our Latino Cultural Arts division expanding to include a Kansas City cultural art museum that would house the Hand in Hand Folk Art collection.

As the Mattie Rhodes Center progresses, our mission remains unchanged. In 2007, our programs and services reflected the same commitment to strengthening individuals and families that we have always had. The following pages spotlight just a few of the additions from this year and demonstrate our unwavering dedication to our mission and our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Fierro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Fierro
Executive Director

Touching Lives

Mattie Rhodes Center continues to provide personalized attention that is bilingual and culturally appropriate to residents of Jackson County. Our services provide cultural bridges that help strengthen families in our community:

- **Individual, marital and family counseling** for children and adults provided by trained mental health professionals.
- **Social services** provided by case managers who assist clients in finding employment, housing, childcare, and educational opportunities. Crisis intervention and other support services are also available.
- **Nuevo Amanecer (“New Dawn”)** provides substance abuse treatment, outreach, and education to youth, adults, and families who are struggling with alcohol and other drug addictions.
- **Visión con Esperanza 360° (“Visions with Hope 360”)** helps Latino children with developmental disabilities and their families through support group meetings and social services.
- **Nuevo Día (“New Day”)** provides therapy, case management and advocacy to Spanish-speaking women and children who are survivors of domestic violence.
- **EXPLORE** is a bilingual after-school program that incorporates tutoring, the arts, recreation and health promotion for middle and high school students.
- **Family Education and Support Groups** provide support and information on positive parenting, healthy lifestyles, cultural adaptation, and healthy relationships.
- **Mattie Rhodes Art Center** offers visual arts and craft classes for children and adults.
- **Mattie Rhodes Art Gallery** features cultural exhibits and the work of local, national and international Latino and other artists.

Mattie Rhodes Center Locations

MISSOURI

Counseling & Administrative Offices
1740 Jefferson Street
Kansas City, MO 64108

Mattie Rhodes Art Center & Gallery
915 & 919 W. 17th Street
Kansas City, MO 64108

Northeast Satellite
148 N. Topping Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64123

KANSAS

Kansas Satellite (inside El Centro)
1333 S. 27th Street
Kansas City, KS 66106



Youth Making a Difference

“It is neat to know that I helped create something that every time somebody comes up here they are going to say, ‘Wow, this is really pretty!’” says 14-year old Katie Konzak, describing her role in creating a three-panel mural through Mattie Rhodes Center’s EXPLORE youth development program.

EXPLORE (*Expanding Life Skills & Opportunities in a Recreational Environment*) provides opportunities for youth to develop life skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership and self confidence through the arts, recreation and academic support. The program also fosters multi-generational relationships between youth and older adults.

In 2007, the Jackson County Safe Family Coalition funded a mural project in which participating youth collaborated with others in the community to represent their visions of a safe and loving environment. 93-year-old Marcelino from the Posada Del Sol senior center provided the themes for one of the mural panels. “You have to be able to forgive and you have to be able to love,” he said. “These are the two things.”

11-year-old project participant Christina Lopez helped depict a safe family city that is characterized by Marcelino’s forgiveness and love. Reflecting on her experience creating the mural she echoed the views of many: “I learned how safe families can get along and how peaceful it is here, how safe and calm this is.”



Hispanic youth use creativity to take a stand against violence.

The youth and families of the Northeast are at risk and in need of services. The area suffers from a rate of unemployment 10% higher than in the rest of Kansas City. Area youth have high rates of gang involvement and school abandonment, with 25% of the population failing to earn a high school diploma or GED. Mattie Rhodes Center has emerged as an area leader in advocacy efforts and is committed to serving the community by continuing to plan activities designed to prevent family violence by engaging youth and coordinating with *Vida en Balance* (Life in Balance), a Latino parenting education class, and *Visions with Hope 360°*, support for families of children with special needs.



Detail of EXPLORE mural

Volunteers Making a Difference

When Mattie Florence Rhodes died in 1890, her friends joined together to continue the good work that Mattie had begun in order to serve the needy in her community. Today, Mattie Rhodes Center continues to depend on a network of community support to carry out its mission. In addition to a dedicated staff of trained professionals, Mattie Rhodes Center relies on the work of volunteers to support programs and special events. Long time Mattie Rhodes Center volunteer Terry Guignon describes her involvement with community service:

"Volunteering at Mattie Rhodes Center has made my life richer and better knowing I can help others in my community in big and small ways through the donation of time and effort. MRC offers a supportive environment to act independently, take initiative, or work as a team to change your life and the lives of others."

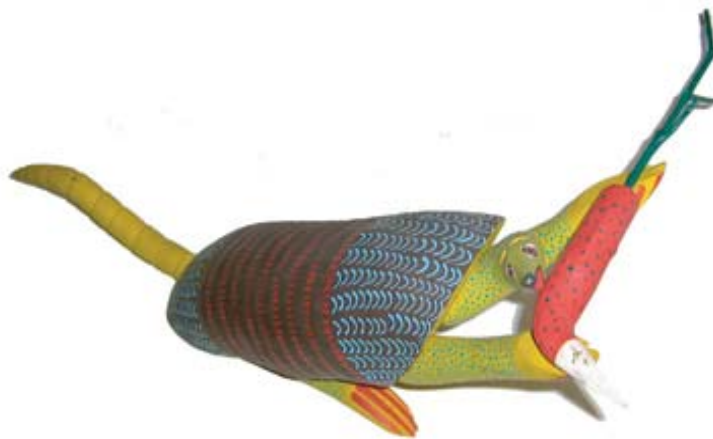
To learn more about donating your time or services contact Maria Tapia-Belsito at 816-471-2536 or mbelsito@mattierhodes.org.

Hand-in-Hand Folk Art Collection

In 2007, Mattie Rhodes Center was honored to receive the gift of the Hand-in-Hand Folk Art Collection from the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. The collection was established by Alice Ann Biggerstaff and includes over 900 pieces of original folk art. The collection features sculpture, ceramics, toys, dolls, masks and textiles primarily created by Latin American and Pueblo Indian artists of the Southwest. Portions of the collection are on continuous display at the Mattie Rhodes Art Gallery.

The Art Center and Gallery staff are excited about the new acquisition and the opportunity to incorporate it into educational material. Consuelo Cruz, Director of the Latino Cultural Arts Division at Mattie Rhodes Center, says, "We continue to enthusiastically go forward with the cataloging of the Hand-in-Hand Folk Art Collection and the implementation of educational programming. We are confident that our passionate stewardship of this fabulous acquisition will prove invaluable to the community."

Looking ahead, the Latino Cultural Arts Division plans to expand the use of the Hand-in-Hand Folk Art Collection in schools by creating interdisciplinary curricula to be used by area teachers. Workshops targeting adults will also continue to be offered using a variety of pieces as inspiration for exposing participants to aspects of Latino culture.



Pieces from the Hand-in-Hand collection are used in educational activities for children and adults. The diversity of origins of the pieces reflects the multicultural influences that have shaped Latino culture.

Arts and Healing Garden

Blossoming from a seed that was planted in 2005, the Mattie Rhodes Center Garden took shape for the first time in 2007. With the services provided by Wendy Van Duyne, a former landscape architecture intern with Gould Evans and current Associate with Bartlett & West, unused space between the Art Center and the Art Gallery was transformed into a peaceful sanctuary and outdoor classroom. During multiple summer work days, members of the community volunteered their time to implement the design for the area, creating a peaceful and intimate retreat.

This space beautifully reflects Mattie Rhodes Center's commitment to a holistic philosophy of service delivery, integrating the arts with clinical services. Staff envision the garden as a non-threatening place for counselors and therapists to meet with clients. Additionally, the Healing Garden will be used as a gathering place for the community to celebrate multi-cultural events, and for students at the Art Center to learn about nature and gardening through hands-on activities. Elements of the garden have already been incorporated into educational programming and outreach. A stage and seating area provide ample opportunity for small productions to showcase the performing and visual arts.



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2007 Financial Snapshot

Support and Revenues	\$ Amount	%
Contributions	619,671	35%
Government Fees and Grants	547,100	31%
United Way Support and Federated Campaign	214,766	12%
Third Party Contracts	292,942	17%
Program Service Fees	56,533	3%
Investment Income	22,331	1%
Interest and Other Income	9,932	1%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,763,275	100%

Expenses	\$ Amount	%
Management and General	181,567	10%
Fundraising	147,808	8%
Nuevo Día (Domestic Violence Services)	98,202	6%
Latino Cultural Arts	308,319	18%
Visions with Hope 360° (Developmental Disability Services)	162,414	9%
Nuevo Amanecer (Substance Abuse Treatment)	112,990	6%
Family Preservation and Strengthening (Mental Health Services)	540,458	31%
Family Education and Support Services (formerly Promotoras)	64,869	4%
EXPLORE <i>Expanding Life-Skills and Opportunities in a Recreational Environment</i> (Youth Development Services)	136,446	8%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,753,073	100%

Profit/Loss*	\$10,202	
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* Any gains achieved are reinvested into the agency for IT, personnel, facility repairs and new initiatives.

2007 Financial Support

We thank our generous supporters for their contributions that have enabled us to strengthen Kansas City families and communities. Each of the individuals and organizations listed below represents an important part of our commitment to responding to the needs of our community.

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Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County – EITAS
Jackson County COMBAT Commission
Jackson County Community Mental Health Fund
Jackson County Safe Family Coalition
Kansas City, Missouri School District
Missouri Arts Council
Missouri Children's Trust Fund
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Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
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Miscellaneous

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Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City
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