



Mattie Rhodes
Her legacy continues a 112th year!

ANNUAL REPORT 2005



FROM THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am privileged to have been appointed Executive Director of this well-established and highly respected Kansas City institution, and I welcome the opportunity to contribute to Mattie Rhodes Center's legacy in the community.

First, I wish to acknowledge the commitment to the Kansas City Latino community made by the outgoing Director and former Board member Mary Lou Jaramillo. Mary Lou leaves a legacy at Mattie Rhodes Center, and I thank her for the 12 years she dedicated to the development of mental health and arts programs. She now moves on to continue to serve the Latino community in another capacity. She leaves the agency strong to move forward. I wish her much continued success.

The year 2005 represented a time of progress for the Mattie Rhodes Center and a time of renewed expectations from those we serve. Last year, our Board of Directors voted to purchase a facility in Kansas City's Northeast area where we have had a presence for some time now, albeit in leased facilities. This commitment to serving the ever-growing Hispanic population presents new challenges, as well as new opportunities.

My vision for continued success and future progress at the Mattie Rhodes Center includes:

- ◆ Continuing to provide quality services to our clients.
- ◆ Creating positive visibility in the Kansas City area.
- ◆ Increasing our level, and opportunities, for sustainability.
- ◆ Making the Mattie Rhodes Center a great place to work.

Let me expound on this last point. I believe that our staff is our greatest resource, and over the next twelve months I will respond to their aspirations for more personal benefits and invest in them by encouraging opportunities for professional growth.

The information in this annual report demonstrates that Mattie Rhodes Center continues to exceed non-profit 'best practices' for efficiency. A look at the financial information reveals that fully 80% of our 2005 revenue was spent on the programs and services that directly benefit those we serve. In addition, we ended the year positively with a financial surplus.

It is through the generosity of our funders, commitment of volunteers, dedication of our staff, guidance from our Board, and input from our organizational partners that the many achievements of Mattie Rhodes Center are possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Fierro
Executive Director



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE...

According to the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Latinos are no longer confined to traditional metropolitan receiving areas like Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago or Miami – they are in growing communities across the country. Not surprisingly, Latinos bring with them both needs and assets that are redefining the social and economic landscape of communities across the country. This is clearly evident in the Northeast area of Kansas City, Missouri.

For the last seven years, MRC has served a population that has multiple and changing needs- compounded by language, cultural and geographic barriers to access. In 2005, 88% of the individuals Mattie Rhodes served were Latino and 91% were Northeast residents. Services over that time period have grown exponentially- originally providing therapy and case management services- Mattie Rhodes has expanded its role to that of a convener between Spanish speaking, Latino residents and the broader service community. By making the decision to purchase a facility in Northeast, Mattie Rhodes Center is doing much more than creating access to mental health services; rather it is has created a permanent resource and social catalyst for families and neighborhood groups.

In 2005, after an exhaustive search of property in the Northeast area, the Board of Directors demonstrated its long term commitment to the community by securing a \$200,000 commercial loan to purchase the facility at 148 N. Topping. While the decision to purchase the building was based largely on client need, the financial position of the organization was also an influencing factor; fiscally, the decision to purchase rather than continue to lease was a logical next step in expanding services.

The building has been partially renovated with an initial investment of \$89,000 from the agency's operating reserves and the first two floors are being fully utilized. In order to complete renovations, Mattie Rhodes Center is in the initial phases of a "quiet campaign" to secure \$400,000 to fully restore the facility.

During its short tenure in the facility, Mattie Rhodes Center's Northeast office has become a community focal point for mental health and social services. Once the building is fully operational, Mattie Rhodes Center will be able, through outreach to and interaction with various community organizations and service agencies, to improve the overall service delivery infrastructure in Northeast by acting to integrate and coordinate the efforts of smaller grassroots organizations in the area. Future plans for the renovated space include providing youth development activities at the facility.

Furthermore, neighborhood organizations have expressed an interest in using the facility for meetings and agencies have inquired about office space. Plans for sustainability include leasing office space on the third floor of the building once renovations are complete. Such activities will increase the variety and volume of resources available to the Northeast community.

Mattie Rhodes Center has identified the following outcomes associated with the establishment of its Northeast facility:

- ◆ **Community Integration** – Mattie Rhodes Center programs are visible and well known; they are accepted and used by the community.
- ◆ **Community Involvement** – Mattie Rhodes Center is an integral part of the larger service delivery structure; the agency develops new partnerships and seeks to enhance existing partnerships, e.g., the Coalition of Hispanic Organizations (COHO) and the Northeast Advisory and Access Group (NAAG).
- ◆ **Community Support** – Mattie Rhodes Center seeks and receives support – in the form of funding and volunteers – from the local community.

To make a financial contribution toward this project, or for more information, please contact Alicia Garcia, Development Director, at 816-471-2536.

Renovation Expenses	Proposed Expense
Replace all windows on the building w/energy efficient ones	\$90,000
Repair roof	\$20,000
Install HVAC on floors 3-4	\$30,000
New electrical for floors 3-4	\$25,000
Install new restrooms on each floor	\$100,000
Repair steps at main entry	\$5,000
Repair parking lot and install railings	\$5,000
Install fire alarm	\$5,000
Make main entry ADA accessible	\$40,000
Carpet for floors 3-4, main room in basement	\$25,000
New room partitions on floors 3-4, painting	\$15,000
10% Contingency (\$360,000 x 10%)	\$36,000
TOTAL	\$396,000



BRIGHTENING LIVES, BUILDING FUTURES

Mark” was 11 years old when he came to us. His father had died, his mother was unable to care for him, his sisters were in foster care in another state, and he was being raised by his grandmother, a kindly sprite of a woman in her eighties. Our therapy services helped Mark express his feelings of loss, develop positive coping skills, and improve interaction with his peers. Our case management services helped Mark’s grandmother manage the challenges of raising a boy at that active age. Mark attended Mattie Rhodes’ Summer Art Camp, which he enjoyed so much that he made a huge “Thank You” card and presented it to the Art Center staff. Though he didn’t necessarily realize it, what seemed to be fun and play at Art Camp was also a form of therapy in which he was learning to express his deeper emotions and channel his energy in positive ways.

In 2005, Mark’s beloved Grandmother passed away, and the boy was placed into emergency foster care. There was talk of him being reunited with his sisters and maybe he and one sister being adopted together. Mattie Rhodes’ staff worked hard on making that reunion possible and watched Mark deal with the stresses of loss, change and hope for the future. But it was not to be. It was in a courtroom that Mark learned that the reunion and adoption had both fallen through. The Mattie Rhodes case manager watched helplessly as Mark let out the heartbreaking emotions of a boy who is deeply wounded. Mark is still in foster care while the Mattie Rhodes staff as well as the staff of all the other organizations that his case manager pulled in to help continue to work together to stabilize his living environment.

Mark continues to make progress in therapy and recently expressed a dream of once again attending Summer Art Camp, a place where he felt wanted and appreciated. Through generous donations from the community, at least this humble dream will be realized. Mark will attend the next Art Camp; and as he continues to wait for a family, his Mattie Rhodes family will continue to be there for him, always ready with a pat on the back... a hug... a smile.

Ricky” was 15 years old when we first met him and his family who had emigrated from a nation known for oppressing its people. Surely, here in Kansas City, in the middle of the “land of opportunity,” Ricky’s parents could get him the kind of attention required for his special challenges epilepsy and mild retardation. But the “land of opportunity” is very difficult to navigate when you aren’t fluent in its language. Even the natives find it frustrating to understand what their own rights are, what services are available to them, and what the proper procedures are to obtain those services. Imagine how overwhelmed Ricky’s parents were!

Without guidance, Ricky was enrolled in a school in his neighborhood a good school, but not equipped to recognize and address Ricky’s needs. His tendency to withdraw when unsure of what was expected of him was mistaken for “defiance of authority.” After many months of struggle and frustration and seeing no other recourse, the school administration reluctantly suspended him from classes.

Then Ricky and his family became involved with Mattie Rhodes Center's Visions with Hope 360° program, which assists Latino families who have children with developmental disabilities. Monthly meetings offer parents the opportunity to connect with each other, discuss their joys and concerns, and learn about resources. But, mostly, these support groups help the parents realize that they are not alone. Ricky's parents worked with a Parent Advocate and armed with the new knowledge of their rights and hope for their son, they got the help they needed. Ricky was soon enrolled in a different school with special programs and staff where he continues to flourish. His parents, teachers and friends are beginning to realize that every child brings their own kind of sunshine into the world, and just like Ricky, every one of them deserves a bright future.



AS WE GO FORWARD....OUR VISION

We envision a community where individuals and families reach their full potential in a healthy, safe and creative environment...

Recognizing a growing need for services targeting Latinos residing in the Northeast area and impressed by the work we do in Kansas City's "Westside" community, St. Aloysius Catholic Church asked if we could expand our mental health programming to include the Northeast community. The staff at Mattie Rhodes Center rose to the challenge, and we have now been providing services to Spanish-speaking and Latino families in that area for seven years, making our office in a leased building near Independence Avenue and Van Brunt. We have since made the decision to purchase, rather than lease a facility, to establish a permanent fixture in this under-served community.

In 2005, our Board of Directors voted to obtain a 15 year commercial loan in the amount of \$200,000 to purchase the building at the corner of Scarritt and Topping Streets. Another important decision that illustrates our commitment to the community is the decision to use \$89,000 of our own operating reserves to make the necessary repairs and renovations that would allow us to fully utilize the first two floors of the building without interruption of services to our clientele.

We are currently the only social services provider in the Northeast area that specifically targets the Spanish-speaking population, most of whom have multiple needs compounded by language, cultural and economic barriers. In buying and upgrading this facility, our goal is to establish it as an accessible gathering place where individuals and families feel supported – a safe place where they are comfortable asking for help and know they can trust the people who work there to advocate for them. Children need guidance and positive role models, and parents need counselors who speak their language. Both need a place where they are welcomed and encouraged.

MRC is a Midwest leader on Latino issues and cultural competency.

We hope to become a source for other organizations by offering research, technical assistance, and training. We are rapidly becoming known as the experts on Latino issues, as evidenced by the increasing amount of times we are asked to give direction to other organizations, businesses and institutions. This is not only gratifying, but something we actively encourage and wish to expand upon in the future. We plan to become more fully engaged in the processes that shape mental health policies both locally and nationally. We have already begun compiling data on measurable outcomes and results of our research to be ready to address the issues as necessary.

With future support for our programs, Mattie Rhodes Center will continue to provide individual and family counseling, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence intervention, and other services, in a way that respects cultural values. Future plans include renovating space at our Northeast Center for youth development activities, such as those already proving successful at our Art Center on the West Side. Youth will benefit from acquisition of skills, as well as bonding with positive adults, high-achieving peers, and a community institution. We look to our generous donors, supporting partners, and new opportunities for funding to make our Northeast Center the best it can be.



2005 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Support and Revenues	\$ Amount	%
Contributions/Assets released from Restriction	346,539	16%
Government Fees and Programs	680,089	37%
United Way Support	209,362	11%
Third Party Reimbursements/Contracts	443,612	24%
Program Service Fees	41,367	3%
Special Events	38,199	2%
Gallery Sales and Investments	36,634	2%
Inkind Contribution related to Building Purchase	100,000	5%
Total Revenue	\$1,895,802	100%

Expenses	\$ Amount	%
Domestic Violence Services	99,374	5%
Art Center and Gallery	230,500	12%
Visions with Hope	106,616	6%
Substance Abuse Treatment	175,902	9%
Family Services / Counseling	532,893	28%
Esperanza / Hope for the Family	130,585	7%
GLOBE / 21st Century Learning	241,304	13%
Fundraising Expenditures	191,699	11%
Management & General	178,736	9%
Total Expenses	\$1,887,609	100%

Profit/Loss*	\$8,193	
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*Any gains achieved are reinvested into the agency.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT 2005

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