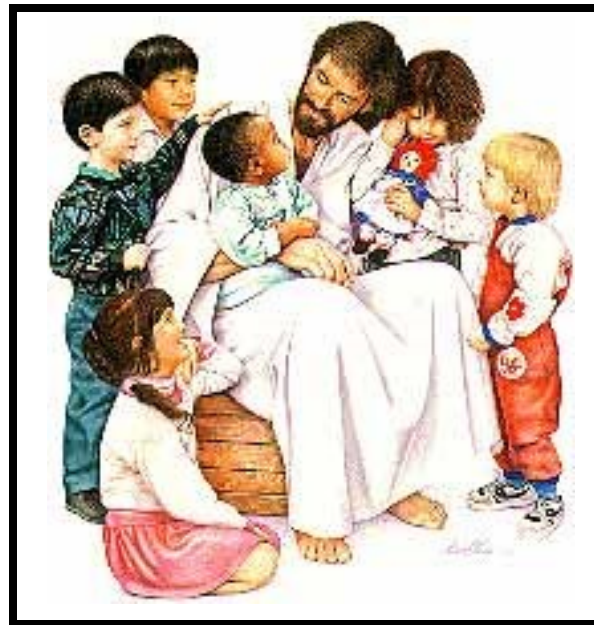




Specialized Foster Care, Kinship, & Adoption Services

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



25 Years of Service



MISSION STATEMENT

Children's Choice, Inc. is a Christian social service agency, which provides specialized community-based services. Children's Choice, Inc. serves as a bridge for individuals who are in need of the reintegrative process of family living.

Intensive individualized supportive services are provided to empower clients in achieving their highest potential.

As a response to changing needs in families and society, Children's Choice, Inc. seeks to be an agent of positive change with those we serve throughout the world.

CORE VALUES

- To be committed to serve.
- To uphold Christian values.
- To provide and promulgate positive family environments.
- To promote family re-unification.
- To facilitate choices, respecting each individual's right to choose.
- To work in a team oriented approach.
- To provide for the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of others.
- To stimulate personal growth and self-determination.
- To be agents of faith.
- To encourage and enhance social consciousness.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mr. Norman Robinson
Chairman of the Board
Retired Police Officer
City of Philadelphia



Dr. Sheila Thompson
Secretary of the Board
Chief Executive Officer
Precision Research & Evaluation, LLC



Mrs. Regina Fike
Board Member
President
Voice of Choice



Rev. Bernard Keels
Board Member
Executive Director
Methodist Action Program



Dr. Carolyn A. Eberwein
Board Member
Chief Executive Officer
Children's Choice



Dr. William J. Eberwein, Sr.
Board Member
President
Children's Choice



Mrs. Christine Keels
Board Member
Executive Director
Department of Justice for
the District of Columbia

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

At Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the chair in which John Hancock sat as he convened the Continental Congress has a half sun carved into its back. Benjamin Franklin purportedly mused whether this sun—and allegorically the new nation being born— was rising or setting. He, ever the optimist, voted that the sun was rising.

The sun has set on another calendar year and a bright new year is rising.

What we at Children's Choice do in this new year will directly affect the lives of hundreds of children and their families. Each year, we are able to prepare half of the families of children discharged from us for reunification, restoring children to their birth families. The other half of our children who can be discharged are adopted or their kin achieve permanent legal custodianship of them. This year 399 children were positively discharged. That's a record to be proud of!

This year Children's Choice celebrates 25 years, a quarter century, of service. When we opened the doors in 1982, we hoped for 50 clients. We decided to hire a third person as a caseworker to augment the work of the two founders. Our work since then has been blessed. We opened an office in the State of Delaware in 1984 to work with specialized, general and mental health referrals, then in 1990 we began an office in New Jersey to handle adoptions and interstate transfers. We began to provide therapeutic foster care services in Maryland in 1991 and in 2004 we became licensed in Washington, D.C.

We have achieved another benchmark this year. Children's Choice now employs more than 200 staff and engages with 860 resource parents, who care for 1,117 children daily.



Our agency leads the field in quality of service, in comprehensiveness of paperwork, in relevance of training, in recruiting well-qualified people of faith and achieving permanencies for children.

To prepare for the future, we help to train undergraduate and graduate students from Widener University, Eastern University, Temple University, Rutgers University, Philadelphia Biblical University, Salisbury State College, Delaware Technical College, West Chester University, Chestnut Hill College, the University of Delaware, the University of Maryland, and the University of Pennsylvania.

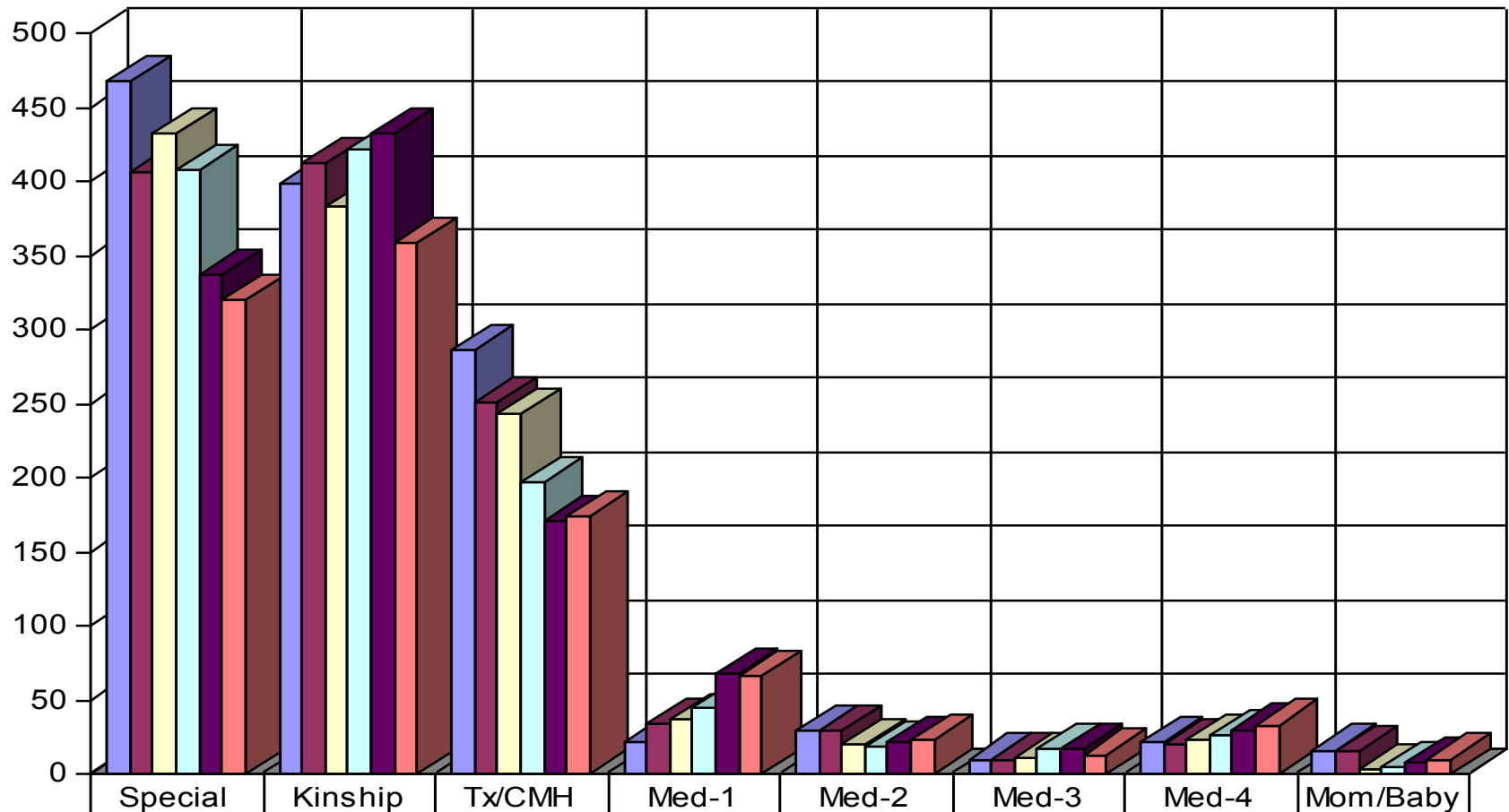
The Children's Choice logo includes Franklin's rising sun because we believe in hope, the hope that changes events, plans and people.

We move into the coming year, full of plans, full of hope and the desire to have that hope shine into the lives of those we serve.



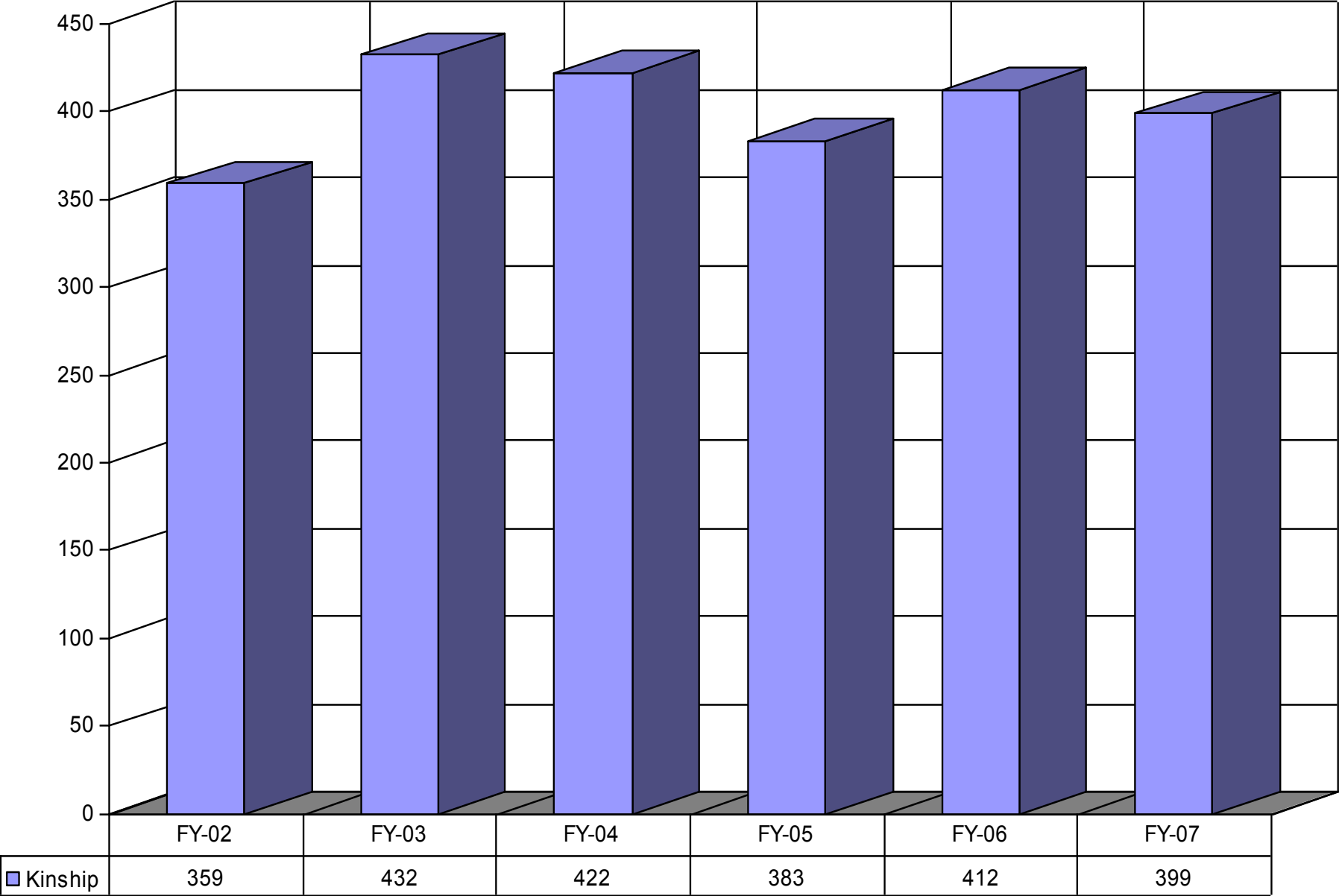
Dr. William J. Eberwein, Sr., President
Dr. Carolyn A. Eberwein, Chief Executive Officer
Founders of Children's Choice

Goal 1: **To increase the total number of children served:** Seventy-two more children were served this year, increasing our total to 1,250 children with the greatest increase occurring in placement of children at the Specialized level of care. The next significant increase is the number of children at the Treatment/Mental Health level.

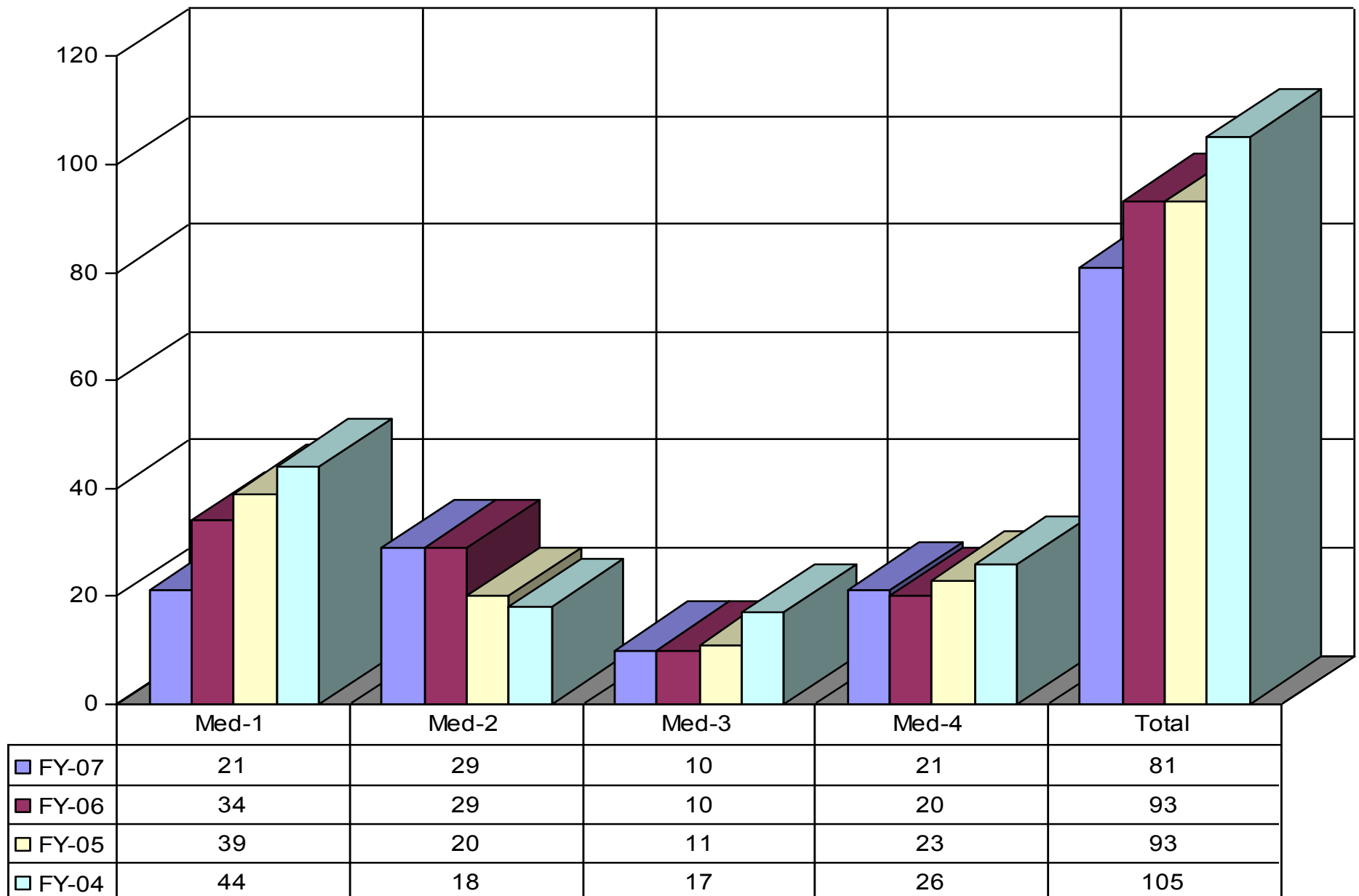


	Special	Kinship	Tx/CMH	Med-1	Med-2	Med-3	Med-4	Mom/Baby
FY-07=1250	468	399	286	21	29	10	21	16
FY-06=1178	407	412	251	34	29	10	20	15
FY-05=1152	432	383	243	37	20	11	23	3
FY-04=1136	408	422	197	44	18	17	26	4
FY-03=1084	337	432	171	67	22	17	30	8
FY-02=998	320	359	174	66	23	13	33	10

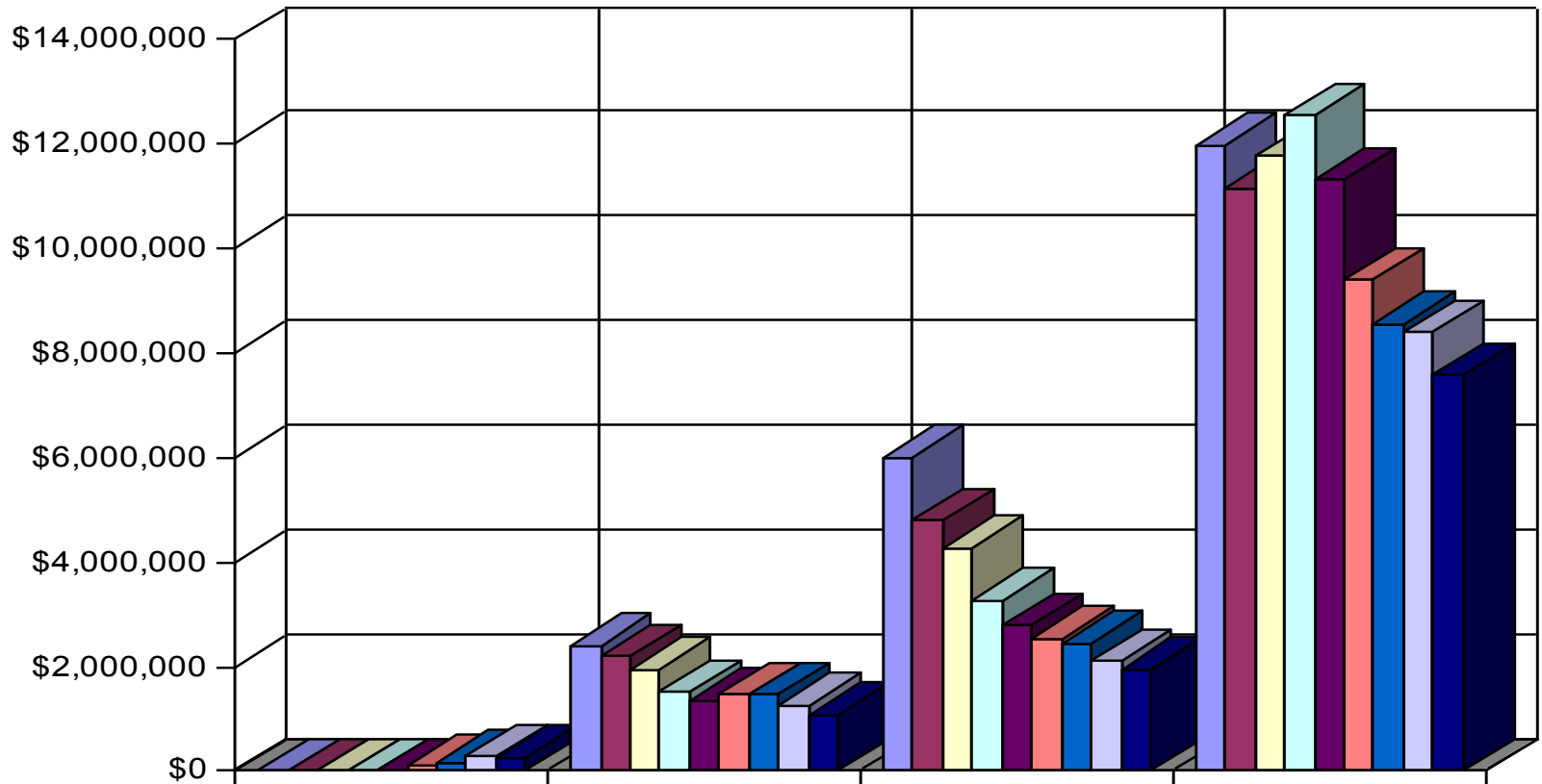
Goal 2: **To expand kinship services:** Thirteen fewer children were referred at the Kinship level of care. Twenty seven of the children at this level of care were discharged to permanent legal custodianship and forty four were reunited with birth families or kin.



Goal 3: **To increase our services to medically fragile children:** Thirteen children who entered Children’s Choice with severe medical diagnoses were able, subsequent to medical treatment and medical foster parenting, to be moved to a less restrictive category of services.

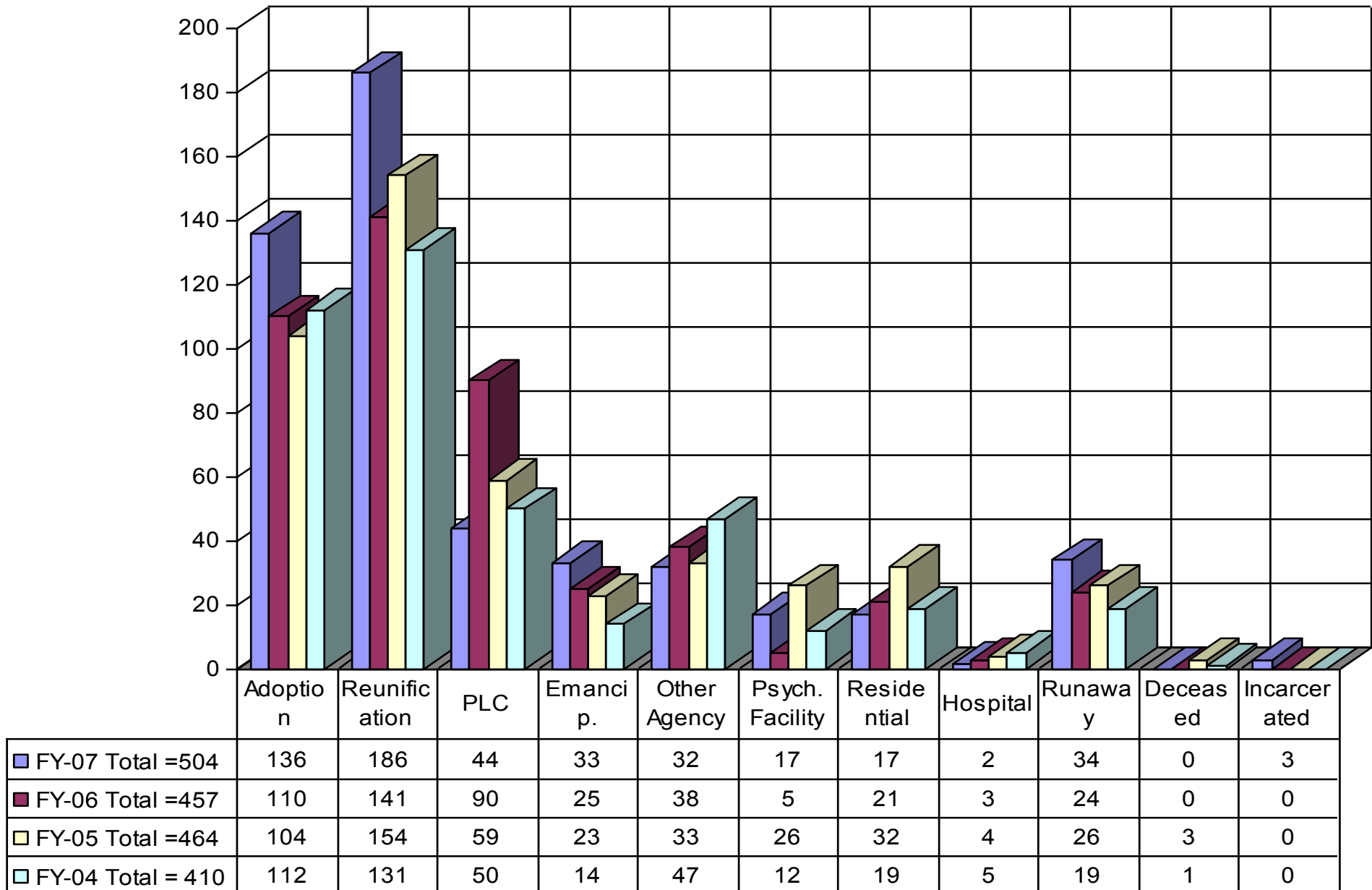


Goal 4: **To increase agency revenues:** Due to new contracts and increases in current contracts in all states, Children's Choice revenues have increased 12%.



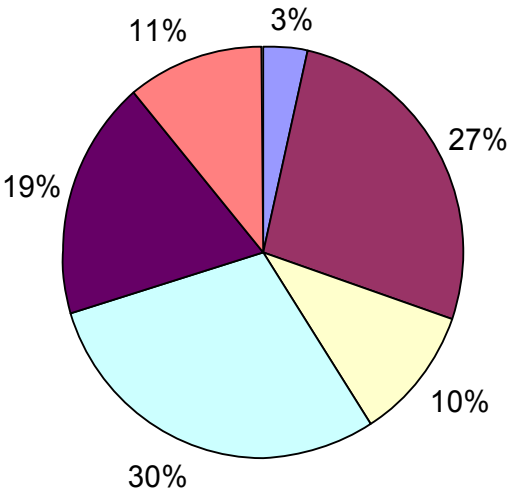
	NJ	DE	MD	PA
FY-07 Total = \$20,354,761	\$3,189	\$2,402,532	\$5,987,392	\$11,961,648
FY-06 Total = \$18,144,224	\$7,317	\$2,190,529	\$4,800,864	\$11,145,514
FY-05 Total = \$17,973,734	\$15,289	\$1,942,637	\$4,262,707	\$11,753,101
FY-04 Total = \$17,337,798	\$13,647	\$1,518,765	\$3,266,283	\$12,539,103
FY-03 Total = \$15,457,030	\$18,510	\$1,357,623	\$2,779,878	\$11,301,019
FY-02 Total = \$13,521,219	\$111,750	\$1,471,869	\$2,538,723	\$9,398,877
FY-01 Total = \$12,634,894	\$173,182	\$1,467,521	\$2,454,997	\$8,539,194
FY-00 Total = \$12,031,151	\$280,824	\$1,261,946	\$2,102,883	\$8,385,498
FY-99 Total = \$10,848,569	\$258,756	\$1,082,897	\$1,939,676	\$7,567,240

Goal 5: **To increase the number of positive discharges:** This goal was achieved as we positively discharged 399 children, 33 more than the previous year. A total of 186 children, 45 more than last year, were reunified with their birth parents, 44 went to live with kin, 136 were adopted and 33 achieved emancipation.



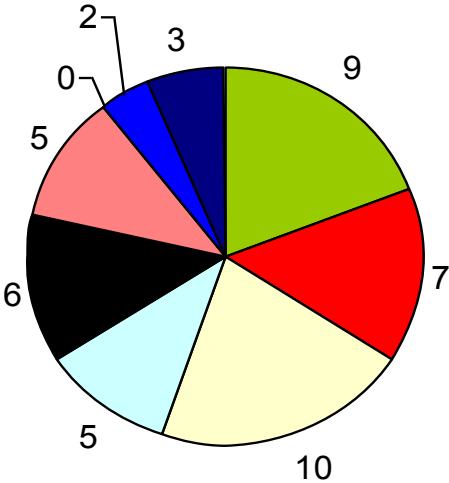
Goal 6: To increase staff retention rate.

Number of Employees by Years of Service
Total Number of Employees: 186



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 15+ years (6) | 2 to 5 years (46) |
| 10 to 15 years (18) | 6mo to 2 years (51) |
| 5 to 10 years (32) | under 6 mo (19) |

Number of Full Time Employees Separated
from Children’s Choice
Total Separated: 47*
Turnover Rate: 25%



- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Career | Relocation |
| Dissatisfaction | Money |
| Performance | Family |
| School | Personal |
| FMLA | |

** Does not include RIF, Seasonal*

LEADERSHIP

FOUNDERS

Dr. William J. Eberwein, Founder and President, elucidates agency goals, negotiates contracts and plans new programs to keep Children's Choice abreast of current community needs in all the states in which Children's Choice operates.



Dr. Carolyn A. Eberwein, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, co-chairs the National Committee for Kinship Care of the Child Welfare League of America and that organization's sub-committee for the Development of Kinship Care Standards.

Dr. Carolyn continues to serve on the State Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Families, chairs the Council's Philadelphia Advisory Board and is Chair of the Council's Southeast Region, a consortium of 61 agencies.



REGIONAL DIRECTORS



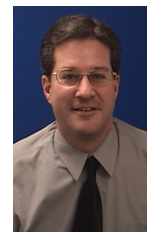
Web Eberwein, MBA
*Deputy Director of
Administrative Services*



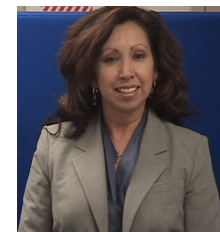
Cindy Ruby, MSW
*Regional Director
Maryland*



Leslie Allen, MSW
*Regional Director
Maryland &
Pennsylvania*



Chris O'Donnell, MS
*Director Management
Information Services*



Cynthia Aguilar, Ed.D.
*Regional Director
Adoption & Pennsylvania*



Lori Corner, SPHR
*Director of
Human Resources*



**Cindy Knapp,
MA**
*Regional Director
Delaware &*



Debbie Street, MSW
*Regional Director
District of
Columbia*



Margaret Philips, Esq.
Corporate Attorney



Joseph Corbett, MAI
*Director of
Real Estate
Development*



Vickie Melvin, MSW
*Regional Director
Pennsylvania*



Gus Dibble, CPA
*Director of
Fiscal Services*

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

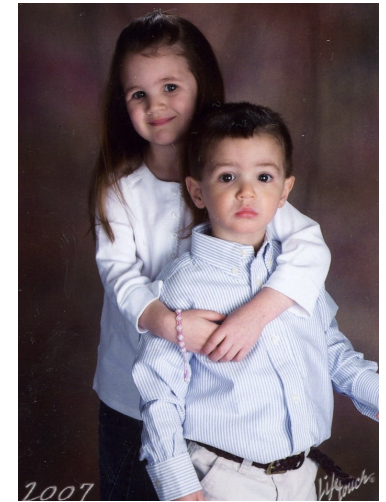


One hundred and three children were adopted through Children's Choice in Pennsylvania this year. Seventeen of them were adopted through our Lewisburg, PA office, including a set of twins. Eight of the children were over the age of 10 years; 9 were part of sibling groups adopted together.

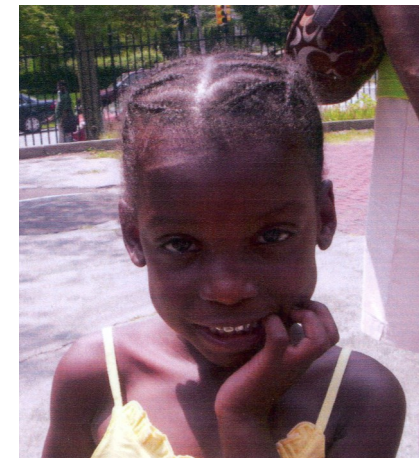
Children's Choice attained the Performance Based contracting goal set by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services in achieving permanency for 157 Philadelphia children this year.



We achieved 366 permanencies in Pennsylvania!

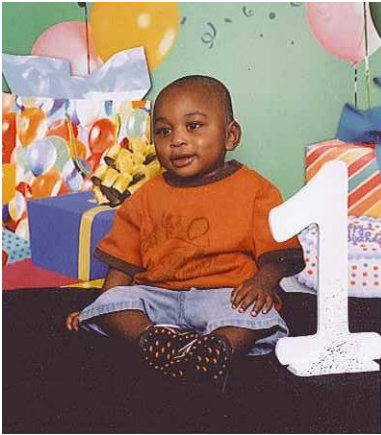


In order to sustain familiar bonds, 144 sibling groups were placed in Pennsylvania. The groups ranged from 2 to 6 children.

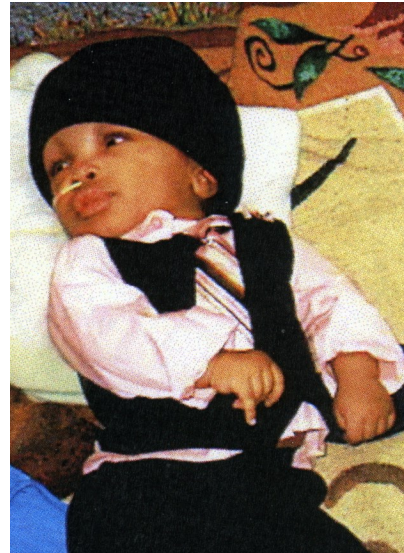


One hundred and thirteen reunifications were accomplished in Pennsylvania this year.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA CONTINUED

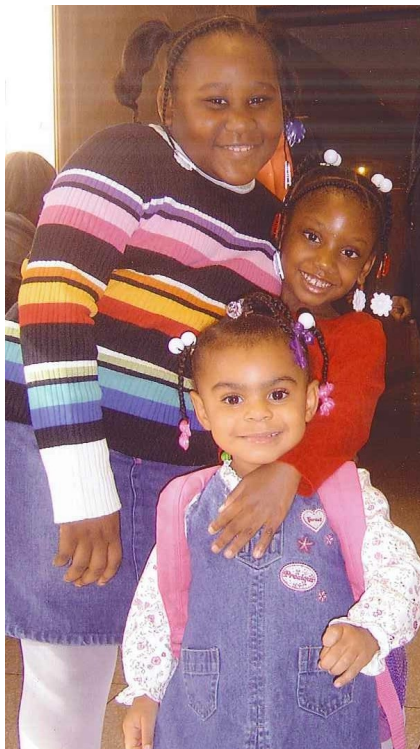


Children's birthdays are celebrated with enthusiasm. Little Raiquan celebrated his first birthday this year with gifts and balloons.

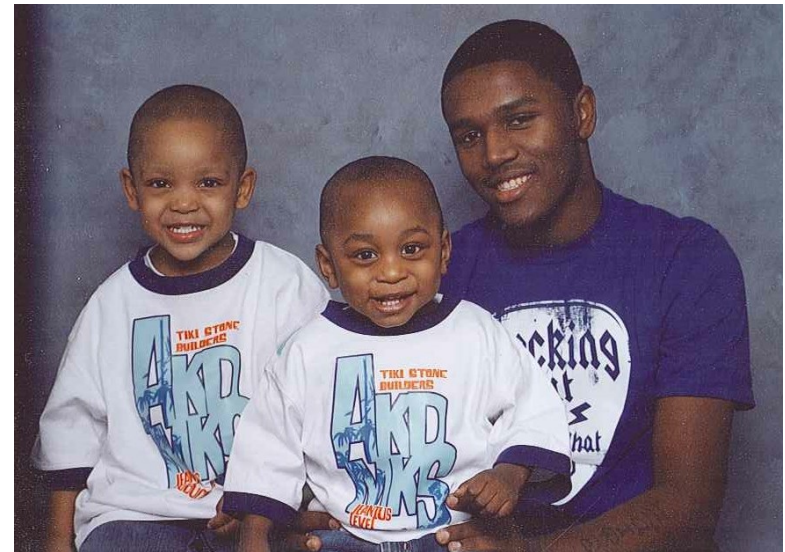
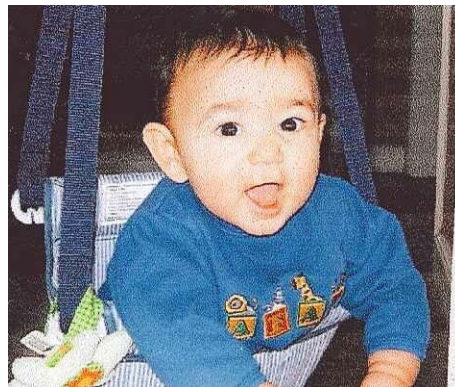


Our medically fragile children have diagnoses including hydrocephaly, prune belly syndrome, cerebral palsy, encephalopathy, sickle cell anemia, myotonic dystrophy, HIV, seizure disorder, renal failure, cortical blindness and autism.

Their care requires gastric feedings, jejunostomy tubes, apnea monitors and central lines.



Happy smiling faces abound at Children's Choice.



Zaire welcomes his two newly adopted brothers, Qadiir and Raiquan.

STATE OF DELAWARE



Thirty-five reunifications
were achieved.



Twenty sibling groups remained
together this year.



Nine emancipations were effected.



Fifty adoptions were
finalized this year in
Delaware.

STATE OF MARYLAND



Nine emancipations occurred.



Twenty-eight reunifications were achieved!



Thirteen sibling groups were placed with us this year.



Eight adoptions were finalized this year in Maryland.



WASHINGTON, D.C.



Our Resource Parents are the basis of care for the children we accept. These families provide nurture and love to supplement the birth family during their time of separation from their birth children.

Two mother/baby placements enabled young mothers and their children to remain together.



Nine sibling groups ranging from 2 to 7 children were served.



Nine reunifications were joined.



Three adoptions were finalized!

SPECIAL EVENTS

FOUNDER'S DAY



On Founder's Day, Dr. Joseph Crumbley a staunch supporter of kinship care, shared current research and his own therapeutic interviews with children of incarcerated parents.

Nancy Buck, a certified Reality Therapist, shared her approach to peaceful parenting and how that philosophy can imbue Children's Choice's practices.



THE OVERCOMERS

The Overcomers, a sibling group of 8, are all together in the home of their kinship mom, Denea.



(L-R): Christine James-Brown, CEO of the Child Welfare League of America, Rodney Butts, David Whitest, Tyrone Whitest, Jeanea Whitest holding Evelyn Whitest, Kinship Mom Denea Whitest, Darren Whitest, David Whitest and Rashawn Whitest as they entertained at the opening ceremony of CWLA's Mid-Atlantic Region conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL'S DAY



Our "guests" for Administrative Professionals Day, the secretaries and administrative assistants from all Children's Choice offices, enjoyed lunch at Baltimore's inner harbor, then visited the Science Museum.



MARYLAND MID-SHORE RESPITE OUTREACH



Andrew McCauley, caseworker in our Maryland Mid-Shore Respite program, mans an outreach booth at a community event as one effort to attract new folk to provide respite care for parents who hope to avoid placement for their children and feel that some brief time apart may provide "breathing room" for the children and parents.

SPECIAL EVENTS CONTINUED



BIBLES GIVEN

Janet Evans of Children's Choice's Fiscal department, presents Bibles to Dr. Carolyn to be given to children on behalf of Covenant United Methodist Church, Springfield, PA.

76ERS HOMETOWN HERO



The Philadelphia 76ers honored Colleen Hardman of our Oxford Avenue office as the "76ers Hometown Hero" at the Sixers-Rockets game on Sunday, March 18, 2007. The "76ers Hometown Hero: In the Spirit of Alex Scott" program recognizes "an everyday hero in the community" and awarded Colleen for inspiring children by taking them to Sixers games on her own time since 2006 when the Sixers began donating tickets to Children's Choice.

BRIDGE BUILDER AWARDS



Aravella Dennis, of Blair Christian Academy in Philadelphia, receives a commemorative plaque and a savings bond from Children's Choice.

Children's Choice offers a Bridge-BUILDER award to graduating seniors nominated by their college or High School as students evidencing positive linkages within their communities.

One young man volunteered at a veterinary clinic, worked with Habitat for Humanity and went to Mississippi this summer to help hurricane Katrina victims.

A young lady works with the Coalition Against Hunger; another is a volunteer EMT; yet another began the first Walk For Autism; another updated and computerized his church's cemetery's log and helped to cleanse grave markers.

Children's Choice is proud to honor these Bridge Builders.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED DONATION



Church Women United in Dover held their annual meeting and prayer breakfast February 24 at Whatcoat United Methodist Church in Camden. The guest speaker was Karen McCall, far right, Children's Choice Program Coordinator. Presenting a donation of \$200 to Karen McCall, from Church Women United are Joyce White, Barbara Bolman, Thelma Council and Donna Dunbar.

SPECIAL EVENTS CONTINUED

ADOPTION HEART GALLERY



As one technique to increase permanencies for children, Children's Choice hosted the traveling "Heart Gallery," a compilation of professionally-photographed portraits of children awaiting adoption. The display was mounted in the lobby of the building housing Children's Choice's headquarters for two weeks.

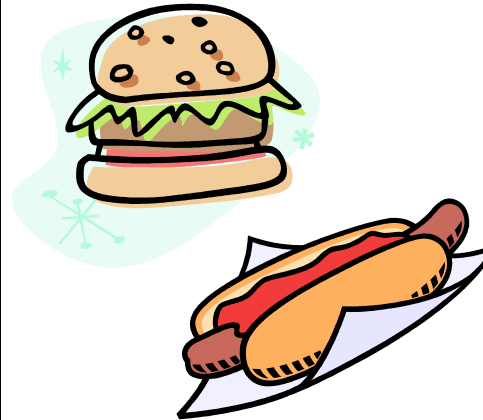
Over the past year, 30 children shown in the Heart Gallery have been adopted or placed in adoptive homes.



Karen Park, Program Coordinator for Adoption, with the Heart Gallery display.

RESOURCE PARENT PICNICS

We ate...



We had face painting...

There were lots of smiles...



We went to the zoo...



We had fun together!

SPECIAL EVENTS CONTINUED

BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

Staff are invited to bring their children to our offices to see what their parents do all day, to have lunch with the President and Chief Executive Officer, and to have some fun together.



Leslie Allen, Program Coordinator of Baltimore, MD and her daughter.



Elma Alston, Program Coordinator of College Park, MD and her daughter.



Cindy Knapp, Regional Director in Delaware and Pennsylvania and her daughter.

CHRISTMAS

Each office celebrates Christmas with a Santa's Workshop for the children, sponsored by the Voice of Choice: Resource Parents' Support Group and a Christmas party for all the resource families.

Thousands of gifts for the children and an array of food are donated by local businesses.



In Pennsylvania, our cadre of recruiters deliver "Angel Trees" to area businesses. The trees are decked out with cutouts of angels, each bearing the name and age of a child. Donors take an angel from the tree, buy and return the gifts to Children's Choice in time for Santa to deliver them.



Tracey Freeman, Recruitment Supervisor and the Recruitment Department sorted and delivered thousands of donated gifts for the children.

THE VOICE OF CHOICE: RESOURCE PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP

The Voice of Choice has enjoyed tremendous growth this year! We have welcomed several new representatives to the Board including members from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington DC. Our bi-monthly meetings are often bursting at the seams. The growth has caused the Board to determine that quarterly meetings were no longer sufficient to accomplish the work to be done, so this year we began to hold bi-monthly meetings.

The parents of the Voice of Choice have undertaken some exciting activities! A contingent of VOC members attended the annual convention of the National Foster Parent's Association in Washington, DC. Board members were busy attending classes, and raising money for the scholarship fund by selling photo t-shirts and raffling quilts at the conference. We are planning for an exciting trip to Atlanta, GA for the next national conference in May of 2008.

The VOC continues to be an active participant in State and National Associations. President Regina Fike presented on the topic of "Foster Parent Association Leadership" at the 2007 Annual conference in Grantville, PA.

Our Scholarship Committee will meet in February to consider applications for the 2008 scholarship awards. Scholarships are available to any foster, kinship, adopted, or biological child of a Children's Choice family who is attending ANY post high school education. To date, we are thrilled to have awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to some fantastic students!

Again this year, the VOC is proud to have sponsored the annual Santa's workshop for the children in each Children's Choice office so the children can purchase small gifts for their birth families and foster siblings. Throughout the year, the Voice of Choice has made endowments to the "Special Funds" of area offices so unique needs can be answered.

In November, the VOC sponsored the annual Children's Choice Christmas Bazaar at International Plaza. Staff and families in each office donated "themed" gift baskets which were sold during a 3-day silent auction. Among the offerings were a beautiful Amish quilt, an Imaginarium train table, a gas grill and two children's bookcases. Parents worked in shifts to staff a bake sale table and photo t-shirt station. The hard work paid off! The Christmas Bazaar netted a profit of over \$2,500 for the Scholarship Fund! Thanks to families and staff for their support of this 'fun'draiser. We are looking forward to next year!



Voice of Choice representatives and their families volunteered their time to help make the Bazaar a great success. (L-R): Mina Pinkney, Newark, DE; Regina Fike, Harrisburg, PA; Karen Webb and her mother, Harrisburg, PA; Annie Fike, Harrisburg, PA; and Alice Lawler, Delaware County, PA.

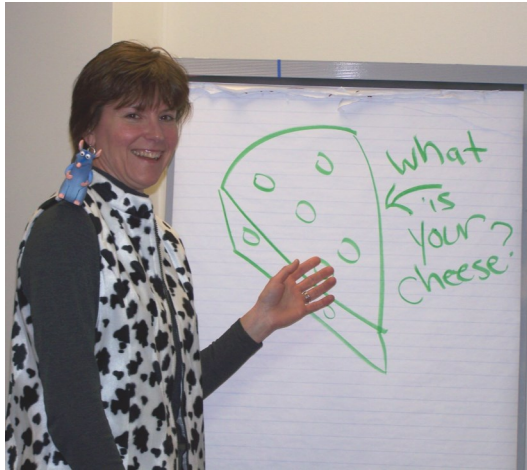
Watch for the Children's Choice cookbook which will be available for purchase in the Spring. This cookbook is packed full of great recipes from agency friends, family, and staff. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will benefit the scholarship fund.

Come and see what the excitement is all about! Join us at an upcoming Voice of Choice meeting!

TRAINING

WHO MOVED MY CHEESE?

Children's Choice is no stranger to change. We have adapted over this year to increased regulations and challenges in securing qualified staff.



Lori Corner, Director of Human Resources, teaches the group how to help staff members adjust after their cheese has moved.

In August, the leaders of Children's Choice met for two days to think about change and its impact on the staff. We used the book "Who Moved My Cheese" by Spencer Johnson as the basis of discussion and strategy formulation. We had fun navigating a maze and tasting new cheeses.

In the end we all shared in the constant that there will be change, that we are equipped to handle it and motivate others to embrace it.



NEW EMPLOYEE TRAINING

New Employees are greeted by Dr. Carolyn and their training begins with a session on Goal Setting, led by Dr. Bill.



Pulcheria Ricks-Poole, Training Coordinator, instructs new employees on Court Preparation.

Training teams in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Washington, D.C. have provided 14,116 hours of Pre-Service instruction for Resource Parents.

CPR training teams travel to Children's Choice offices in all states we serve to provide CPR and First Aid instruction to staff and resource parents.



Mary Dwyer and Kandice Lewis teach CPR to the new employees.

BRANCH OFFICES

Dr. Carolyn A. Eberwein, Chief Executive Officer

Philadelphia, PA 610-521-6270

1-800-LA-CHILD

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICES

Delaware County	(610) 872-6200
Germantown	(215) 843-2222
Harrisburg	(717) 526-6915
Lewisburg	(570) 522-1030
Mt. Airy	(215) 329-6191
Oak Lane	(215) 329-6191
Overbrook Park	(215) 871-7836
Oxford Avenue	(215) 831-9164
Penn Treaty	(215) 634-8940
South Philadelphia	(215) 551-6501
Treatment Foster Care	(215) 551-3401
West Philadelphia	(215) 471-6793

DELAWARE OFFICES

Dover	(302) 678-0404
Georgetown	(302) 678-0404
Newark	(302) 731-9512

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE

Washington	(202) 635-6250
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MARYLAND OFFICES

Baltimore	(410) 319-9681
College Park	(301) 313-9091
Kent Island	(410) 643-9290



Specialized Foster Care, Kinship, & Adoption Services

WE CAN USE YOUR HELP

We sincerely appreciate your interest in the Children's Choice agency, our children, staff and resource parents. As this report indicates, we are proud of what God has wrought through our efforts and we look forward to the up coming year as a continuing opportunity to reach out to the world, to serve God by serving His children. If you would like to join us in this effort, we are always in need of resource parents, adoptive parents and economic support. Gifts to the Children's Choice Foundation are tax deductible and will help us to provide even greater services to these entrusted to our care.

I truly hope you will accept this invitation to join our efforts to better our world by reaching out to a child in need. Your gift of \$100□ \$75□ \$50□ \$25□ will be of great assistance. Thank you and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

Reverend William J. Eberwein, Sr.
President

Funded in part by the City of Philadelphia Department of Human Services, the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, the Maryland Department of Social Services, and the Children and Families Services Agency of Washington, D.C.