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GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

While our 30th anniversary gives us opportunity to celebrate, it also provides pause to reflect on how blessed we are at Rockford MELD. From the dedicated administrators and staff to the committed members of the board, our agency's mission of building strong families has remained focused and determined for three decades.

Much of the credit must be given to our community. The donors and volunteers who believe in the work we do and its benefit to our young parents and Rockford. We count many friends among our family and continue to make many more as we commit ourselves to improving lives. For your support we sincerely thank you.

That spirit gives Rockford MELD the energy to move our mission forward during what has been very challenging times. Despite

consistent questions and doubts over funding and grants, the board and administration have made tremendous strides keeping our budget balanced and healthy to have the resources necessary to maintain our important programs.

A recently developed strategic plan has identified new opportunities aimed at agency efficiency. We've enhanced our social media capabilities to introduce Rockford MELD to new audiences, and we began the new year with a new web site. I invite you to visit www.rockfordmeld.org to learn more about our mission and programs. While there you can also sign up for upcoming MELD events and become a volunteer.

Sure we have many friends, but will always have room for one more.

Mike Robinson, MELD Board President

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FY11 has proved to be another year full of accomplishments at MELD.

We have continued to work on our "shelter makeover" with new paint, carpeting and décor. The improvements have helped to create an environment that is soothing and inviting for our young mothers and children who are experiencing a homeless crisis. This spring we will be hosting an open house for our friends of MELD to see the "new look" at our shelter.

Our Homeless and Transitional Living programs were filled to capacity as we continued to carry out our mission of "guiding young parents to build a strong family and lead a responsible life". Through these programs, **48** young families secured permanent housing. In addition, **115** young mothers enrolled in educational programming and/or became employed.

This year, MELD focused on strengthening the services we provide to the young fathers in the Rockford community. Our Young Dads Parenting Groups served a record number of **38** young fathers who understand the critical role they play in the lives of their children. To highlight the successes and accomplishments

of our clients, our new website will feature a "Parent of the Month" section where you can meet some of the young men and women who explain how MELD helped them to become better parents and stronger community members. We invite you to visit our website to view their stories, learn more about MELD, our upcoming events and how you can help.



While we have celebrated many accomplishments over the last year, sadly we had to turn away numerous young parents and their children due to a lack of space and funding resources. Our donors have continued to help fill the financial gaps left by shrinking grant funds and severe payment delays. Your generosity has enabled Rockford MELD to continue providing services to some of the most vulnerable members our community. Thank you for your support to MELD.

Vikki Noe-Eltvedt, MELD Executive Director

A LOOK AT FISCAL YEAR 2011 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

July 2010



We got a 'running start' to the New Year with our annual July 4th Classic Run and Walk. It was a record year for the MELD Run with over 600 registered for the 8K Run, the 2 Mile Run and the Fun Walk. The 8K is a flat course and one of the fastest 8K Runs in the Northern Illinois area. And we started off July 4th with a "bang" with the help of Mayor Morrissey to begin the 8K and none other than Mr. July 4th, Joe Marino to lead the 2 Mile Run. It ended with lots of food, water, prizes, medals, and prize money AND a great event to start July 4th fun and the beginning of our Fiscal year.



August 2010



What a surprise at our past Sports Celebrity event, when Dan Hampton, our guest speaker, said he would like to join us at our Golf Play Day. It was a great privilege to have Dan and his son play in our "Green and Bear It" Golf Play Day at Prairie View Golf Club in Byron. 114 golfers filled the course on a beautiful and moist afternoon for our 18 Hole Golf Play Day Scramble. Great prizes, silent and live auction, a 50/50 raffle and Sports Celebrity guest Dan Hampton all helped to make our Golf Play Day a huge success.



October 2010



MELD hosted our first annual "Growing Stronger Families" Breakfast in October at Giovanni's. Our guests enjoyed a McMELD breakfast and heard from past MELD families how MELD was there when they needed the support as young parents. To hear the successes with many thanking MELD for the guidance and support they received, was truly a testimony to the work we do in assisting many young families to succeed. Thanks goes to our guests that offered their generous support to MELD in our efforts to continue to grow stronger families for our community.

December 2010

Gift Wrapping at CherryVale Mall has become another annual tradition for MELD. It brings together many volunteers that support MELD. Starting in November, every Wednesday, MELD volunteers manned the gift wrapping station at CherryVale Mall. 120 volunteers wrapped over 1300 packages for holiday shoppers that gave a donation to MELD.

April 2011



Our biggest event of the year was our Annual Sports Celebrity Event. This past year we were honored to have recent 2011 Hall of Famer and past Cubs player, Andre Dawson as our guest and speaker. The highlight of the night was when Andre told his "baseball stories" and shared his youth and boyhood days with us. After listening to one of our past MELD moms speak of her experience and support MELD gave her as a teen parent, Andre shared that he could relate to the situation as his mother was a single teen parent, and that he was raised by both his mother and grandmother. He said he rarely tells his childhood story, but found it very fitting that evening at our event.



May 2011



Each year as we plan our Mothers Day Card and Note Card theme, we say, "what can we do different and unique from each of the past years of MELD cards?" Well, again this year we did it!! Thanks to Jeff Anderson and Anderson Japanese Gardens. Jeff's beautiful photography of Anderson Japanese Gardens was the feature for the card and note cards and a huge success.

We could not do this massive project without the support of the businesses, places of worship and groups that assist by selling the cards and note cards. And for the support of Thrivent North and South Branches that provided supplemental funds for card sales at local participating Lutheran churches. This year was 22 years of another beautiful card and note card set. It continues to be a great fundraiser and tradition for MELD.

May 2011



In May we held our annual Wine Tasting at Artale's Wine Company. We packed the place, enjoyed great wines, delicious appetizers by Josef's and supported MELD at the same time.

June 2011

We ended our Fiscal Year with the generosity of the Helping Kids and Family Foundation started by John Terranova and his family. This year was the 7th year for the Bocce Ball Tournament at St. Ambrogio. Proceeds from the tournament, pasta dinner, auction and raffle, benefitted MELD programs.

MELD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN FISCAL YEAR 2011

MELD YOUNG MOMS and DADS PARENTING SUPPORT GROUPS

MELD provides programs for young mothers, young fathers and their children through our MELD Moms and Dads parenting and support groups. Families come together to discuss parenting issues and to share ideas with each other. The groups meet weekly at local churches and in local high schools. Volunteers provide childcare and healthy snacks to ensure that these families are able to take advantage of our services.



MELD AT TRINITY HOUSE HOMELESS SHELTER

Our shelter, MELD at Trinity House, located at 620 Kishwaukee St., is licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services and provides shelter, food, clothing,

resources and support for 8 homeless young mothers and their infants and toddlers*. The shelter is staffed twenty-four hours a day. By licensure, residents must be at least 17 ½ or under 21 years of age. While at the shelter the needs of each young family are assessed and appropriate linkages to other community agencies, schools, etc. are made. Community staffings are held with all agencies involved with the family and a service plan for the family is agreed upon and implemented.

*The shelter is licensed for 16 young moms and children. However, as of July 2009, due to funding cuts, we can ONLY house 8 homeless young mothers and their children at our homeless shelter.



MELD Trinity House Homeless Shelter

MELD TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

Young families interested in living in the MELD Transitional Living Program must make application to the program and are accepted only upon agreement to develop their goal plan and abide by the rules of the program. Parents live with their children in apartments, and are responsible for paying their own rent, based on their income and maintaining their living residence. Families with no previous experience at living on their own reside in the Phase II level, located on the third floor of our shelter. Those with some independent living experience, enter the program at the Phase III level, living in MELD apartments located throughout the community. The Transitional

Living Program has a total of 22 apartments for young families between the ages 17-21.

The MELD Transitional Living case coordinators assist the young parents in assessing their needs and in developing their goals; specifically in the areas of parenting, money management and education/vocational pursuits. Once goals are set, staffings with all appropriate community agencies are held where the role and responsibility of each individual and agency is agreed upon. As these young families strive to be independent they are also given the support they need as they deal with the tribulations of the real world and the barriers that they encounter.



Transitional Living Apartments



EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Through the Education and Employment Assistance Program, MELD partners with local employers by providing job opportunities for young parents. This program gives young parents the chance to develop good work ethics, job dependability and job training. Local businesses, corporations and agencies can benefit from

these MELD programs by having a MELD parent work and/or receive training at their company. The programs provide job training and work experience opportunities for young parents and exposes them to a positive work environment while offering them a variety of job experiences. The program provides GED tutoring and assistance in completing their education while securing employment. MELD staff provides case management, guidance and counseling as well as career planning.



MELD HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM

MELD provides housing assistance for young families between 18-23 who are at risk of homelessness or have recently become homeless. Families can receive short term rent subsidy, assessment and case management and are referred to other community agencies as needed. The primary focus of this program is housing stabilization.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Partnerships with community individuals, businesses, corporations, churches and social service agencies are fundamental to the success of MELD programs and services. Collaborative programming and working relationships with many local agencies ensures that MELD families receive comprehensive and coordinated services. Local housing developers coordinate with MELD to provide affordable and safe homes for MELD families.

Area churches assist MELD by hosting the moms and dads support groups and a number of churches, businesses and civic groups and individuals choose MELD as the recipient of their annual giving and in-kind donations. And, of course volunteers assist in our programs and with our events.

MELD does not ask for any "fees for services" or payments from our participants. ALL MELD programs and services are FREE. With grant funding decreasing, it is our fundraising events and contributions that are vital for the continuation of programs at MELD for young moms, dads and their children.

THANK YOU FROM ROCKFORD MELD!

It is with the continued support of the community that enables MELD in providing vital programs and services to many young families and their children in the area.

For more information about MELD programs and services and our upcoming fundraising events, visit our newly redesigned web site www.rockfordmeld.org or call 815-633-6353 x10.



ROCKFORD MELD





**ROCKFORD
MELD**



3703 N. Main St.
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www.rockfordmeld.org



Our Mission... "guiding young parents to build a strong family and lead a responsible life by providing shelter, education and life skills training".

MELD is a non-profit social service agency. The agency was started in 1981 and was incorporated in 1985. In 2003 MELD won the Excelsior Award, the most prestigious award given to an agency for their outstanding performance and service to the community.

Through our programs and services MELD offers emergency shelter and housing for homeless young moms and their children, parenting information, life and job skills training, resources and support and prevention education to young families.

MELD FUNDING SOURCES

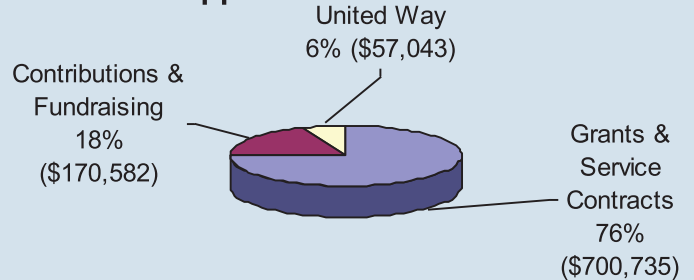
- Youth Services Network
- United Way
- Contributions and Fundraising Events
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Human Services
- Illinois School Board of Education
- City of Rockford
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

**FISCAL YEAR 2011 - July 2010 - June 2011
STATS AND FACTS**

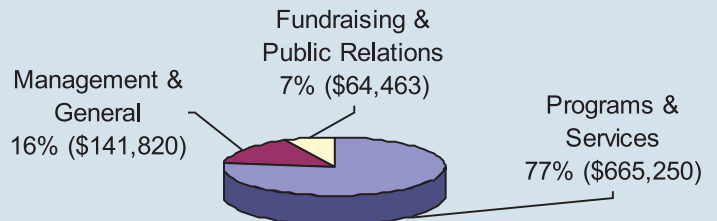
- MELD at Trinity House Homeless Shelter housed, fed and clothed **85** mothers and children for a total of **2,382** bed nights.
- **490** requests were made to MELD for shelter or housing of which **213** mothers and children were turned away due to lack of space.
- **182** mothers and fathers received parenting education, information and support in the MELD Moms and Dads Groups.
- The MELD Transitional Living Program provided housing for **84** mothers and children for a total of **3,264** bed nights.
- **72** young women while residing in our Homeless Shelter or our Transitional Living Programs, received or completed tutoring, educational assistance, vocational training, their GED or High School Diploma and/or attended local colleges.
- **43** shelter and transitional living program participants were employed at agencies, companies or businesses in our community.
- **80** moms, dads and their children, who were homeless or at risk of being homeless, were provided case management and/or housing assistance, through the Homeless Prevention/ Rapid Re-Housing Program
- Over **650** individuals volunteered with programs and events for MELD

FY 2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Support & Revenue 2011



Functional Expenses 2011



The above financial information was provided by Elliot & Co.



3703 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

www.rockfordmeld.org



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MELD 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

LOOKING BACK AT 2011

ROCKFORD MELD
30 YEARS OF GROWING
STRONGER FAMILIES!

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2012



• Coming Soon!!
MELD Card and Note Cards
To be available in April

• MELD Sports Celebrity Event on
Thursday, May 10, 2012 at Giovann's

www.rockfordmeld.org

