

"Building Strong Families"



Mothers
and
Fathers
Establishing
Life's
Direction



Rockford MELD

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In 2014 MELD celebrated 32 years of "building strong families," through our programs and services. MELD offers support and resources, life and job skills training, emergency shelter and housing, parenting information and prevention education. MELD serves young families in the community. MELD is a non-profit social service agency. The agency started in 1981 and was incorporated in 1985.

MELD is honored to have received the Excelsior Award in 2003. It is one of the most prestigious awards given to a local non-profit each year for their outstanding performance and service to the community.

MELD receives funding from federal, state and local grants as well as United Way, Youth Services Network, contributions and in-kind donations. The agency sponsors several fundraising activities throughout the year: MELD Celebrity Event, MELD Mother's Day Cards & Note Cards, MELD Classic July 4th Alan Hutchcroft Memorial Run and Fun Walk and our MELD Golf Play Day.

Support of the Community

Rockford MELD depends on the support of the community for the success of our programs with contributions from businesses and individuals, in-kind donations of needed items, supplies for MELD families and volunteerism to the agency.

annual report 2013

A LOOK AT FISCAL YEAR

FISCAL YEAR 2013

(July 2012-June 2013)

Accomplishments and Program Statistics

- MELD at Trinity House Homeless Shelter housed, fed and clothed **41** mothers and **32** children for a total of **2,355** bed nights
- **378** requests were made to MELD for shelter or housing. **195** mothers and children were turned away due to lack of space
- **145** young mothers and fathers received parenting education, information and support in the MELD Moms and Dads Groups
- The MELD Transitional Living Program provided housing for **38** mothers and **43** children for a total of **11,675** bed nights
- **56** young women while residing in our Homeless Shelter or our Traditional Living Programs, received or completed tutoring, educational assistance, vocational training, their GED or High School Diploma and/or attended local colleges
- **16** shelter and transitional living program participants were employed at agencies, companies or businesses in our community
- **52** mothers, fathers 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 **500** individuals volunteered with programs and events for MELD

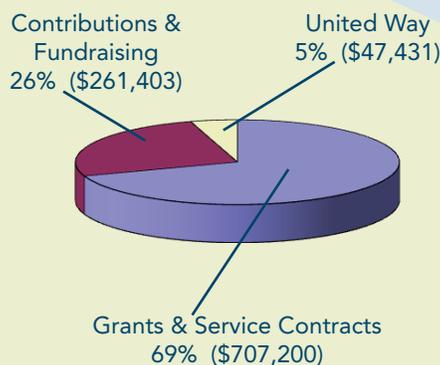
FUNDING SOURCES

(July 2012-June 2013)

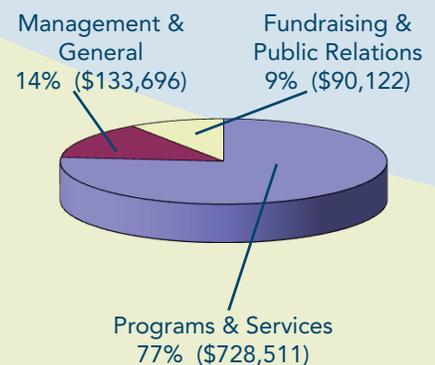
Donations
Fundraising Events
Youth Services Network
United Way
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of Human Services
City of Rockford
Illinois School Board of Education
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Support & Revenue (\$1,016,034)



Functional Expenditures (\$952,329)



Rockford MELD's Mission is "guiding young parents to build a strong family and lead a responsible life by providing shelter, education and life skills training." MELD provides programs and services for young families in our community including emergency shelter and housing, parenting information and prevention education.

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 to house 8 homeless young mothers and their children. It is staffed twenty-four hours a day. Mothers at the shelter are between the ages of 18 and 21. 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.

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 of 18-21.

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.

MELD Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

MELD provides housing assistance for young families between 18-25 who are at risk of homelessness or have recently become homeless. Families can receive short term subsidy, assessment and case management and are referred to other community agencies as needed. The primary focus of this program is housing stabilization.

MELD Moms and Dads Groups

MELD provides programs for young mothers and fathers and their children through our MELD Moms and Dads education 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. Facilitators of the groups were young parents themselves and now are volunteering their time as they give back to MELD.

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.

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 choose MELD as the recipient of their annual giving and in-kind donations. Over 500 individuals in the community volunteer their time and talents to MELD each year. It is with the continued support of the community that enables MELD in providing these programs and services to many families and youth in the area.