



Family Outreach Center  
1939 S. Division Ave.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
PERMIT NO.657



# Outreach Edition

FAMILY OUTREACH CENTER

Strengthening Families... Changing Lives



## Yes! I want to help strengthen families & help change lives!

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$10    \$25    \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me more information on Family Outreach Center, Inc.

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:**

- My check is enclosed  
(payable to Family Outreach Center)
- Please charge my  
 Visa    Mastercard    Discover

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Make a secure online donation at [www.familyoutreachcenter.org](http://www.familyoutreachcenter.org)  
We do not except American Express Credit Card.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope the year of 2008 finds you well and happy.

It's spring time now! Time to stop, smell and touch the flowers that are blooming! I am happy to report that Family Outreach Center continues to "bloom" as well. Through continuous and strong collaboration with the public and private sector, we have experienced growth in key areas that will improve the quality of life of many children, youth, adults, and families who might otherwise remain underserved in the community.

You will read about several of our successes in this newsletter and those to come. Our pledge to you is to reach "further" into the community and develop new programs and relevant services to positively impact families in need. Needless to say, we are extremely optimistic and excited about the positive role that Family Outreach Center, Inc. will continue to have in Kent County.

We would like to take this time to say "thank you" to every individual, corporation, foundation and funding source that has, and continues to help us remain mission driven in "Leading the way in promoting healthy family living by reaching out to underserved and low-income populations in the community."

Your help and financial support is still needed. We enthusiastically look forward to the future and the opportunity it will provide this organization to serve the community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Veneese V. Chandler, Executive Director

Family Outreach Center, Inc.

## Help is on the way!

"What do I do now?" Candi, a mother of three children. Children who have just been removed from her home and care. A mother with years of unaddressed mental health issues and cocaine dependence. Diagnosed with major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder and cocaine dependence along with a failed attempt of suicide left Candi feeling helpless and without hope.

That is when she found Family Outreach Center. Her need for self esteem, strength and family reunification were immediately addressed.

"With the help of the professional counselors at Family Outreach Center I stopped using illegal drugs, my self esteem was strengthened, I used sheer willpower and hope, that one day my children would return."

Upon entering the Kinship Program at Family Outreach Center in 2006; "it was an overwhelming experience to walk into the court room in October 2007 to have my parental rights restored and my children returned to my custody." Candi is still involved with the counselors for ongoing support at Family Outreach Center.





**Project C.H.I.L.L.  
(Children receiving Help In Living and Learning)**

What an exciting time! Project C.H.I.L.L. is gearing up for an exciting summer filled with activities and opportunities to put to use the skills and principles that have been learned during the school year. This time of fun provides an opportunity for advancing their socialization skills, building positive life relationships and life skills.

Project C.H.I.L.L. is an after school and summer prevention program at Family Outreach Center for children between the ages of six (6) and twelve (12), whose parents are receiving mental health services, through our agency or another network 180 behavioral health program. We are excited and gearing up for another summer packed full of activities that reinforce the learned skills and principles taught during the school year.

*Try something new...*

**for people recovering from both chemical addictions and emotional or psychiatric illness**

**DRA** Dual Recovery Anonymous

**Tuesdays @1:30 • De'gage' (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

**Starting April 2008**

"DRA is an independent, nonprofit, self-help organization. Our goal is to help men and women who experience a dual illness: We are chemically dependent and we are also affected by an emotional or psychiatric illness. Both illnesses affect us in all areas of our lives: physically, psychologically, socially, and spiritually. The DRA fellowship has no opinion on matters of diagnosis, treatment, medication, or other issues related to the health-care professions. The DRA fellowship is not affiliated with any other self-help organization or Twelve Step program. DRA has no opinion on the way other groups address the problems of dual disorders and dual recovery. We do not criticize the efforts of others." (from the Preamble of Dual Recovery Anonymous)

*Please Join Us!*



**FOC gets a face lift!**

Beginning June 2<sup>nd</sup> we will experience 21<sup>st</sup> century technology and application on our new website thanks to the Community Media Center (CMC). The CMC's skill and creative ideas will provide the consumers and community the opportunity to access our agency services. The website will feature options for comments, receive the Mental Health Tips, pod casting, links to resources and much, much, more. Our scheduled date for completion is June 20<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to having this as another opportunity to reach out and strengthen families and change lives.



**Fund Raising Activities**

Family Outreach Center is participating in an innovative fundraising program that will save you time and money! Unlike any other fundraising program, the Our GV Rewards Fundraising Program provides the opportunity for you to shop at over 1,000 mall retailers through our website [www.ourgvmall.com/reachout](http://www.ourgvmall.com/reachout). Take advantage of the amazing offers and savings while you shop at retail stores such as; Walmart, Office Depot, DELL, E-bay, Hickory Farms and many more. Shopping at our online mall will save you time and money while raising funds for Family Outreach Center.

**Fund Raising Activities**

- Grand Rapids Griffins
- Whitecaps
- Our GV Rewards

*When shopping in the OurGV Mall between 10 and 50% of your purchase for each merchant comes to Family Outreach Center that we may continue to meet the needs of those we serve.*



**NEEDS LIST**

- New Computers
- New Monitors
- Gas Cards

**Recovery Management**

**Kudos to Andrew Rose, LMSW!**  
Andy Rose a recovery manager for The Recovery Management Program at Family Outreach Center has lifted up the agency motto: "Strengthening Families... Changing Lives". Andy is one of the seed planters to bring a World Service Organization support group to Grand Rapids to assist participants in living clean and sober lives. "Dual Recovery Anonymous" for people recovering from both chemical addictions and emotional or psychiatric illness.

The Recovery Management program represents an extension of the substance abuse services that are available in Kent County. Services are provided to participants to provide extra support to help meet basic needs, stay clean and sober and enjoy life.