

Jesus said, "People soon become thirsty again after drinking water. But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a well of water within them, giving them life." - John 4:13-14

ANNUAL REPORT
2009

THE WELL COMMUNITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Joel Pulis, Executive Director & Community Pastor

Throughout each week, people living with severe mental illness come to *the Well* and are warmly welcomed into our community. Accustomed to living in **the shadows of society** where they had often been neither noticed nor needed, *the Well* receives them as "Community Members," made in the image of God, valued in His sight, and worthy of our love and concern. Through an accepting and hopeful environment, we are seeing those we serve transformed!

We are coming off a strong year in 2008! We intentionally sought to increase the number served in 2008 and our "expansion project" successfully resulted in a 96% increase in weekly participation, with over 275 individuals served for the year. This number represents **lives being impacted** with the good news of God's love, helped in the daily struggles of life, and empowered in recovery.

While we continue to be a worshipping community with weekly services on Saturday evenings, our work is primarily accomplished through our weekday Community Life Center program (CLC). The CLC offers a **restorative environment** for people who have had their lives drastically disturbed and need the support of others in moving toward recovery. Through participation in the CLC programming, Community Members are given opportunities to rejoin the worlds of friendship, family, work and to access needed services and supports.



Friendship: Bill Aechternacht, John Street, and James Johnson

EMPOWERING THE SEVERELY MENTALLY ILL OF DALLAS THRU COMMUNITY, FAITH, & BEST PRACTICE INTERVENTIONS

This past year, our work was recognized by the Center for Non-profit Management as one of three nominees for their annual **Mission Achievement award** and was featured in a story written by Steve Blow in the *Baylor Line* magazine.

Over the course of this past year...

- We served over 13,000 low-cost, healthy meals to hungry individuals through our weekday lunches and Saturday dinner.
- We encouraged lives through daily Bible studies, weekly worship, various support groups, and crisis counseling.
- We secured housing for numerous individuals through our own Jacob's House and apartment relocation program.
- We facilitated case management services to help many obtain and/or maintain available public services such as psychiatric care, supplemental security income (SSI), and food stamps.
- We encouraged responsibility through meaningful activities such as volunteer service and work.
- We employed 18 Community Members during the year in our Vocational Life program, helping them with extra income in a supportive work environment while helping *the Well* provide important services.



Laura Dodge & Marie Williams working in the CLC café

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We appreciate you, our Community Friends, for the love, gifts, time, and energy you share on our behalf. With your varied contributions, financial and otherwise, 2008 was a wonderful year! Thanks!!!

- Thanks to all the individual donors. Over **246 individuals** donated to *the Well* in 2008! Thanks!
- Thanks to all of our **volunteers – Saturday and weekday**. Your volunteer hours in 2008 were worth more than **\$30,000** to *the Well*!
- Thanks to our **weekday volunteers**: Ricardo Aguilar, Al and Joyce Curry, David Dillard, Patsy Fuller, Janis Pulis, Jan Parsley, Ann Tabony, Evelyn Simmons, Diane Warnock. You brighten the lives of our Community Members in such a profound way!
- Thanks to **Darlene Evetts and family, Laura Pless, Janis Pulis, Evelyn Simmons, Liz Tobias, Diane Warnock, the Precept Bible class**, and others who regularly prepare lunch in the Community Life Center.
- Thanks to all who purchased and prepared food for **Saturday Night Life**. Keeping this expense out of our budget saves us more than **\$12,500 per year!**
- Thanks to more than **29 congregations** who contributed their **financial and/or volunteer support** in 2008! In alphabetic order: Antioch Community Church, Bent Tree Bible Fellowship, Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Covenant: 08 House Church, Dallas Baptist Association, Fellowship Bible Church, First Baptist Church of Farmers Branch, First Baptist Church of Garland, First Baptist Church of McKinney, First Baptist Church of Rockwall, Forrest Meadow Baptist Church, Grace Temple Baptist Church, Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Hillcrest Church, Journey Community Church, Kessler Community Church, Kessler Park Baptist Church, Kessler Park United Methodist Church, Lakeside Baptist Church, Mercy Place, Oak Cliff Baptist House Church, Park Central Baptist Church, Park Cities Baptist Church, Reunion Church, Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Shady Oaks Baptist Church (Hurst), South Dallas Section of the Assemblies of God, Trinity Church of Cedar Hill, and Union Cathedral.
- Thanks to **First Baptist Church of Farmers Branch** for your help in beginning the Jacob's House remodel!
- Thanks to **Vickie Albright, Carol Kelly**, and their **Park Central Baptist team** for helping organize the Christmas festivities!
- Thanks to all who donated **Christmas presents, toiletries, food, furniture**, and other items for our Community Members. For those on meager budgets, these seemingly insignificant items make a big difference!
- Thanks to **Cliff Temple Baptist Church** for their continued grace in terms of **facility usage**. Without worship space, classrooms, and office space, we would be unable to offer this ministry. The reduced rent and utility fees that you offer saves us thousands!
- Thanks to the **support staff** at Cliff Temple – Sophia, Nicki, Susan, Juan, Antonio, Eddie, and others! You are all great and help our Community Members in so many ways!
- Thanks to **Adapt of Texas, Centro de Mi Salud, Mental Health America of Greater Dallas, Metrocare Services, NAMI Dallas**, and all of our friends in the **mental health community!** We appreciate your support and all you do!



Creative geniuses at work! Ann Tabony, James Johnson, and Halbert Bowers



Lyndon Sillings getting his groove on at Saturday Night Life

the Well Community was founded in 2002. Since then, the North Texas region has experienced an **18% increase** in the number of persons with **serious mental illness**, with an estimated **21,019 people** in Dallas County alone. Our services are needed more than ever!

(2008 United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Community Needs Assessment)

SUSTAINING THE WORK

In order to better serve our Community Members and to improve the breadth and depth of our programming, in 2008 we increased our budget to \$342,000, a **40% increase** over 2007. This growth allowed us to serve more people and at a deeper level. As you read on page one, this expansion was very successful.

By the fall of last year, we began to see financial challenges ahead. Therefore, **we tightened up spending, while not compromising essential programming, and ended the year under budget.** In addition, in spite of the ongoing economic uncertainties, in the final four months of 2008, you collectively gave over \$90,000 toward our year-end need of \$100,000. Therefore, we ended the year, with an \$11,000 surplus, the largest in the past three years!

Therefore, we thank God for you – our Community Friends – for your passion in bringing the healing love of Jesus to those we serve. We are so grateful for your gifts, **especially during these challenging times.** Thank you for your financial faithfulness, empowering us to serve those with mental illness in Jesus' name. Thank you so much for your continued financial partnership.



Charles and Connie Johnson after a daily devotional

2008 Financials

of DONORS: 243

INCOME

Individuals	\$157,081
Foundations	\$104,427
Churches	\$31,055
Corporate	\$6,950
Designated Gifts	\$18,119
Other Income	\$10,674

Total Income = \$328,306

EXPENSES

Total Expenses = \$317,351

Grants

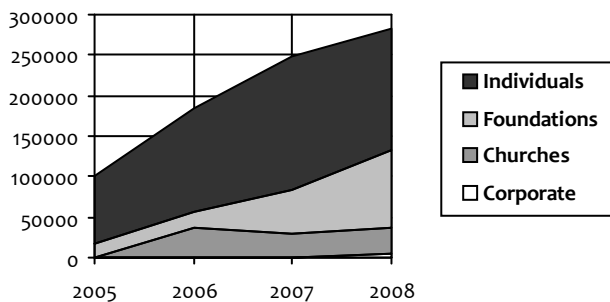
Morning Star Family Foundation
 The Dallas Foundation
 The National Christian Foundation
 The New York Community Trust
 The Rees-Jones Foundation
 Tomkins Corporation Foundation
 The Women of Saint Michael

Corporate Gifts

AllianceBernstein
 Batchelder Enterprises, Inc.
 Deep Shift
 Eagle National Steel, LTD.
 The Galli Group, P.S.
 Gittings/Skipworth, Inc.
 Leetex Construction LLC
 Mary Kay Inc.
 Spraberry Oil & Gas L.P.

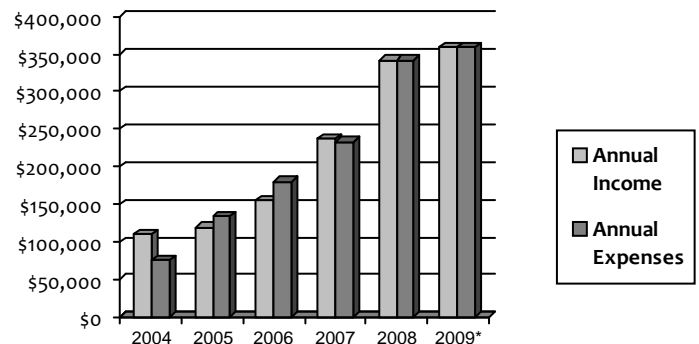
GIVING BREAKDOWN

(4-Year Comparison)



BUDGET GROWTH

(2004 - 2009)



Joel Pulis was honored this past year with the **George W. Truett Award for Ministerial Excellence.** The award recognizes a minister for a singular ministry achievement in the recent past. Achievements meriting consideration combine *imagination, leadership, and effectiveness.* The recognition is awarded by Baylor University and The Baptist Standard.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Clara Miller

At 75 years of age, Clara has been involved in the mental health world of Dallas for many years. In 1986, in the early years of deinstitutionalization, she joined Independence House, a community mental health program run by Dallas County MHMR.



There she found friends, work, and support: "We were one big family." However, in 2001, the program floundered and Clara felt "like the rug was pulled out from under me. I had no place to go, no friends, and nothing to do."

Since then, Clara has become a regular at *the Well*. Several times a week she treks in from Duncanville, encourages others with her wisdom and care, and actively participates in the art program. **"I think *the Well* is a remarkable place.** The spirit is the same as Independence House...and yet by adding the spiritual aspect it's so much more."

During March, Clara's art will be displayed and on sale at WineAlicious in Duncanville. All proceeds from the exhibition will benefit *the Well's* art program (call 972.709.2100 for directions and times).

Lyndon Sillings

About five years ago, as a sophomore at Adamson High School ("Go, Leopards!"), Lyndon first began to attend a Young Life group at Cliff Temple Baptist Church. Soon after, we were introduced to several of his family members and they all began to attend *the Well*.



Lyndon graduated and quickly became a mainstay around *the Well* and Cliff Temple. He realizes that, "If I keep myself occupied, I will keep myself out of trouble." Therefore, Lyndon helps manage the café, rides "shotgun" on transportation runs, cleans the van on a weekly basis, and takes on other duties as assigned. His energy is boundless; he's always busy and always on the move. For instance, Lyndon travels most places on his bike, visiting friends in Plano and DeSoto!

Yet, despite all he was receiving in the programs, his home life, albeit loving, was stressful and unhealthy. Therefore, in August 2008, he moved away from home and into Jacob's House. Within a couple of months, he was raised up in responsibility, cooking most meals for the household and serving as the staff's primary connection within the home.

With a full life ahead of him, Lyndon dreams of one day serving as a paramedic. **"That's one way that I can help more."** Having witnessed how far he has already come, *the Well* is going to do everything we can to help him fulfill his dream.

THE WELL COMMUNITY

- **THE WELL COMMUNITY** is both a church and a community development organization, providing resources to our neighbors in need. *The kingdom and the cup of cold water* (Matthew 10:7-8, 42)!
- **OUR MISSION:** *the Well* is a community of people working to bring love and health to those living with the effects of severe mental illness, empowering them through community, faith, and best practice interventions.
- **OUR STRATEGY:** We focus on the core issues related to mental illness – *isolation, hopelessness, poverty* - by providing our Community Members with a healthy environment and access to needed resources.
- **OUR PHILOSOPHY:** We do not have clients or consumers of our services - we have *Community Members*. We believe that *together* we can become more of whom God made us to be, both individually & collectively.

SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

Serious mental illness refers to an individual aged 18 years or older having a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder for a sufficient period of time that disrupts or limits at least one major life activity.

Mental illness affects approximately 44 million Americans, including 2.3 million Texans.

Texas ranked 46th among states for per capita mental health spending in 2006.

Source: 2008 United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Community Needs Assessment