

Posted 7/1/08



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- Meetings/Conferences
- Member News
- Teleconferences
- Executive Consultants
- Public Policy
- Severson Center
- Archive
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- Sign Up Information

Member Highlights: River Oak, My Home, Family & Children's Service

Events support members' financial viability, CEO speaks up for young girls



(Alliance E-News Service) —

River Oak Receives \$73,000, Recognized for Leadership

River Oak Center for Children, an Alliance member in Sacramento, Calif., recently benefited from \$73,000 that was raised during the 2nd Annual R.O.C.C. Your Body event. The "Mystique" themed evening was sponsored by an area spa.

Women enjoy some pampering during a spa event that benefited River Oak to the tune of \$73,000.

Proceeds from the event support River Oak's Roots and Wings: A Campaign to Rebuild Lives, a campaign which is raising funds for a new Treatment Complex. The new complex will provide

comprehensive assessment and personalized services to low-income and vulnerable children.

In other news, River Oak received the Exemplary Program of the Year 2008 Award from the California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth earlier this year. The award recognizes the agency's commitment to delivering the most effective, state-of-the-art services as well as its statewide leadership in the successful implementation of evidence-based practices.

"This award is a tremendous honor for the 200 dedicated and hard-working River Oak employees whose tireless efforts bring hope to so many vulnerable children and their families," Mary Hargraves, president and CEO, says. "River Oak is proud to be at the forefront of implementing best-practice model programs that produce lasting positive results in the lives of the children we serve."

River Oak is the only Sacramento-area nonprofit organization that provides five nationally recognized evidence-based practices that are proven by research to be the most effective in treating emotionally and behaviorally challenged children and youth. These programs are:

1. The Incredible Years, which teaches emotional and social skills to preschool children and improves their overall kindergarten readiness;
2. Multisystemic Therapy, which prevents out-of-home placements of youth with delinquency problems;
3. Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care, which provides services to foster children and youth with delinquency, behavioral, and emotional problems;
4. Teaching Prosocial Skills, which equips youth with emotional competencies; and
5. Functional Family Therapy, which strengthens families through intensive positive relationship building.

My Home Receives HUD Grant

A program operated by Alliance member My Home, Your Home in Milwaukee received a financial boost earlier this year during a fundraising event. Lissy's Place, which provides a haven for homeless and abused women, was the beneficiary of a Continuum of Care Homeless Award presented by two U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials. The award certifies that Lissy's Place will receive a \$183,547 Supportive Housing Grant from the federal grant. The grant must be supplemented with money from local donors, which was the reason for the evening's fundraising dinner and silent auction.

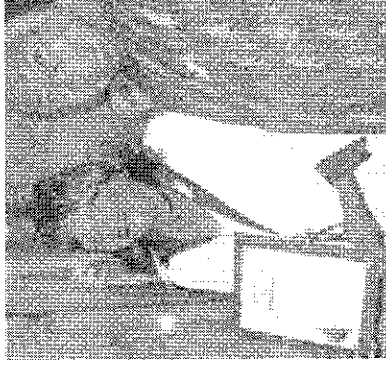
During the event, the Milwaukee city mayor and Milwaukee County executive declared May 22 to be Lissy's Place Day in both the city and county.

The women who find shelter at Lissy's Place have little or no income. Many of the women have grown up in the foster care system and were left adrift without a support system when they aged-out of care.

Other residents are mothers themselves, striving to be reunited with their children. Oftentimes women may have been subjected to domestic violence, been forced into prostitution for their own survival, have had a dependence on alcohol or illegal drugs, or have had a mental illness.

"We help the women at Lissy's Place to increase their skills and resources to prepare them for independent living," Constance Palmer-Jones, chief executive officer at My Home, Your Home, says. "Most of them obtain schooling and get a job, and eventually make a successful move to housing of their own, such as an apartment. Our staff helps them every step of the way."

Each year, Lissy's Place serves about 50 homeless and abused women. Capacity is 17 women at a time, and the maximum stay is two years.



June and Charles Brown, foster parents trained and licensed by My Home, Your Home's program, receive state-level recognition.