



Mothers' Club
Family Learning Center

2012 Annual Report

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Veronica Soto



From the Executive Director & the President of the Board

Mothers' Club Family Learning Center continues to thrive as we work to fulfill our mission: **preparing families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life through two-generation learning programs.** In addition to ensuring the sustainability of our meaningful programs for the neediest families in our community, we are also focused on strengthening the quality of our services, measuring our impact and expanding our programs.

On the programmatic side, we are implementing a new approach to behavior and classroom management called **Conscious Discipline.** This self-regulation approach to working with children integrates social-emotional learning and discipline and empowers adults to respond consciously to daily conflict, transforming it into an opportunity to teach critical life skills to children.

The method is having a ripple effect at our center, starting with our staff and extending to our families and their home life.

We are excited to announce that we are now in the final stages of building **our very own data system** which will not only allow us to be more efficient in our work but also be more responsive to our clients. The system will also support the implementation of a longitudinal study that will focus on measuring the impact of our services for both parent and child after they leave Mothers' Club.

Although having the data to support the impact of services is critical and important, **there is nothing like watching the transformation happen before our very eyes.** We are seeing more of our parents take ownership of their future, setting goals for themselves and their family, continuing their education and being active participants in the lives of their children.

These are exciting times at Mothers' Club and with the tireless dedication of our Board of Directors, talented staff, enthusiastic volunteers, and the incredible support of our community, we can accomplish much more.

On behalf of all our families, thank you for your investment in our future!

Hector LaFarga, Jr.
Executive Director

Norah Morley
President of the Board



2012 Program Accomplishments...

The **MISSION** of Mothers' Club Family Learning Center is to prepare families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life through two-generation learning programs. We fulfill our mission by providing FREE programs to disadvantaged families with children ages 0-5. In all programs, mothers and children are enrolled in their own programming, gaining the knowledge and skills they will need to break out of poverty.



All of our programs uphold our **TWO-GENERATION LEARNING APPROACH** and consist of the following core elements:

- Early Childhood Education
- Parent Education
- Adult Education
- English as a Second Language
- Parent/Child Interactive Literacy Activities
- Family Literacy Classes
- Health & Nutrition Classes
- Mental Health Services

Our core **Family Literacy** program served 60 parents with 79 children from 6 weeks to 5 years old. The program was offered Monday-Friday from 8:30am - 12pm for 11 months.

First Connections served a total of 23 parents with 33 infants and toddlers in 2012, and was offered Monday-Friday from 1pm - 4:30pm throughout the year.

Our **Teen Parenting** program, offered weekly for 90 minutes, served 15 teen moms and 12 children last year. The **Teen Dad's Club** worked with 4 teen fathers and 3 children.





Program Evaluation

In order to measure the success of our programs and ensure continuous program improvement, we have a thorough evaluation approach that includes both process and outcome evaluation, and utilizes quantitative and qualitative data collection with standardized assessment tools.

Our evaluation plan is revised annually to reflect our program goals and measurable objectives for parents and children.

2012 Outcomes

Across our programs, children and parents met or exceeded their learning benchmarks, demonstrating children's readiness for school and parents' readiness to support their children's education, as well as their own personal development. Examples include:

■ State Benchmark ■ Mothers' Club Outcome



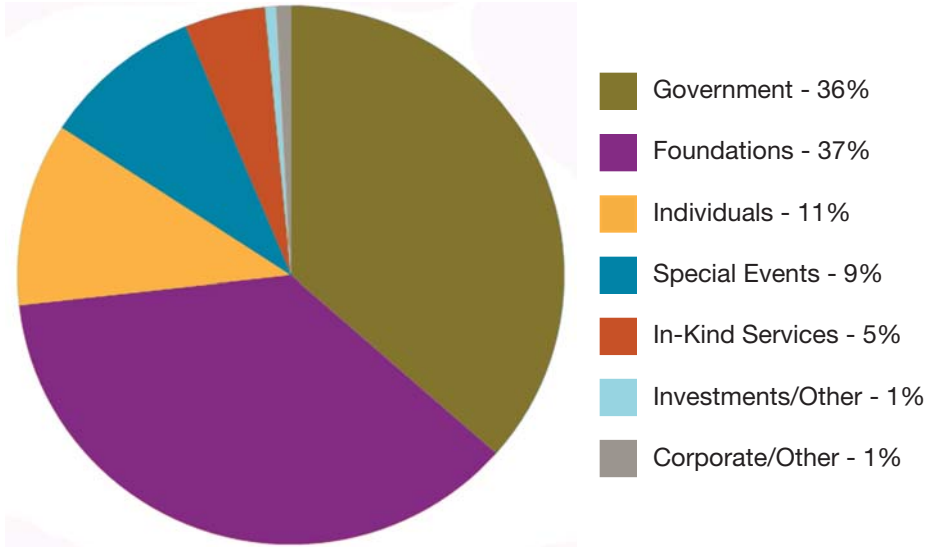
Data System

In an effort to formalize our evaluation process, we have invested in the development of a centralized data system that will be customized to our needs. The system will facilitate program monitoring, simplify analyses, save time in data input procedures, and contribute to the strength of future reports of outcomes. The data system is currently being tested and will be put into use by the start of our 2013-2014 school year.

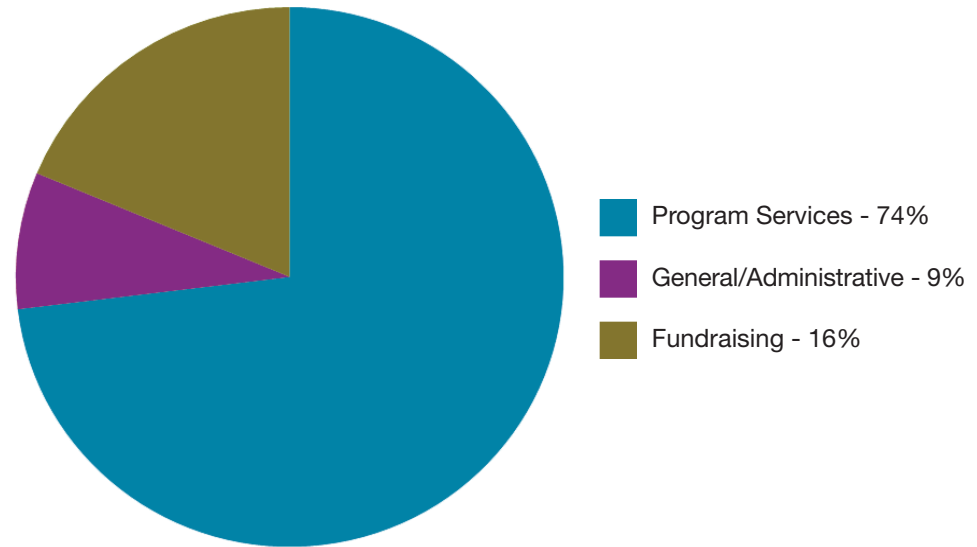
Statement of Activities

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012

REVENUE: \$1,504,308



EXPENSES: \$1,632,104



SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Contributions	\$ 387,375	\$ 880,415	\$ -	\$ 1,267,790
Capital Campaign Contributions	50	-	-	50
Donated Services	80,238	-	-	80,238
Interest and Dividend Income	13,594	-	-	13,594
Net Unrealized/Realized Gain on Investments	1,525	-	-	1,525
Special Events	141,111	-	-	141,111
Net Assets Released from Restrictions: Satisfaction of Donor Restrictions	1,014,352	(1,014,352)	-	-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	1,638,245	(133,937)	-	1,504,308
EXPENSES				
Program Services	1,186,307	-	-	1,186,307
General and Administrative	145,647	-	-	145,647
Fundraising	300,150	-	-	300,150
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,632,104	-	-	1,632,104
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	6,141	(133,937)	-	(127,796)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	7,016,679	577,850	123,500	7,718,029
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 7,022,820	\$ 443,913	\$ 123,500	\$ 7,590,233

Thank You to Our Donors

Benefactors (\$100,000+)

Center for Community & Family Services,
Early Head Start
Community Development Institute
Even Start Family Literacy
Weingart Foundation

Founders (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

The Atlas Family Foundation
CA Department of Education, Child Nutrition Services
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The Rose Hills Foundation
Tikun Olam Foundation

Champions (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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Gifts & Pledges Received Between July 1, 2011 & June 30, 2012

Every effort was made to ensure accuracy and proper acknowledgment of gifts we received. If you find an error, please accept our apologies and call our Development Office at (626) 792-2687, 122.

Karen Leiko Otamura &
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Andrew Zanella

*We also want to thank the
hundreds of individuals who
made donations less than \$249
to support our work with families!*

A Mother's Story



My name is Yakelyn Hernandez and I have been coming to Mothers' Club for five years with my two daughters. Lesly was one and a half when she started, she is now 6 years old and in kindergarten. Bonnie was four months old and is now four and a half and in the pre-school at Mothers' Club. I came from El Salvador when I was ten years old. I attended school and got married in the United States and consider the states my home.


As a young mother I wanted the best for my daughters but often I felt lost. Lesly wanted a lot of attention, the baby cried a lot, **I had stopped my life for my family but now I felt like pulling out my hair!** I wasn't smiling as much, I wanted to cry all the time, I felt frustrated and had no idea what to do or where to find the help I knew I needed.

A woman at church told me about Mothers' Club. I was very scared when I got there because I didn't know what to

expect. I stood at the door thinking that I wanted to run away but the fear I felt was less than the need to find some help - so I went in. I immediately felt comfortable and was able to begin in an afternoon program that was newly started. After two years, I then was transferred to the morning program. I never imagined that this program would walk with me through many difficult times that were still to come.

Ever since my youngest daughter, Bonnie, was 3 months old, I knew there was something different with her but didn't know what. The teachers at Mothers' Club identified some delays with Bonnie and they immediately referred me to the Regional Center for further testing. My baby was developmentally delayed. **These were the hardest words to hear.** What does it mean, how will she grow up, what will be her future, what should I do... I had more questions than answers. But Mothers' Club staff was there to help me. Bonnie was put into physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech classes. The therapists came to the center and the teachers worked closely with the therapist and no one ever complained that we were a burden; the staff just helped. Bonnie wasn't able to walk until she was two, can still only say a few words, and this road is still long but we are getting the help we need.

Two years ago, my husband was rushed to the emergency room because he thought he was having a heart attack. I cannot explain how scary this situation can be. I thought my husband could die at any moment and didn't know what to do. After a series of stressful hours and tests, the diagnosis was severe anxiety attacks caused by stress. Again I felt all the



questions coming to my mind: what was this, who gets it, how long does it last, how serious is it, and what do I do.

After going to the emergency room three more times, he went on disability and had to leave his job for a full year. **I had to take care of our home, my husband, and our two girls with no money.**

Mothers' Club was again there to hold me up. They provided badly needed support through the mental health program that they offer. I was assigned a great therapist intern who gave me a lot of support and guidance. She helped me to understand that my husband was not crazy. She answered my question about his condition, the treatment he needed, how it would affect our family and what I should do. The staff also recognized that my entire family needed extra mental health support so they provide me and Lesly individual counseling. During this awful time, Marco couldn't work and the bills were piling up. Mothers' Club staff again helped me. They found a grant for emergency funding to pay our rent for three months. My husband still struggles with his mental health but with medication and therapy he is able to control it and is back at work now.

Mothers' Club helped me find myself. Through the therapy I was asked: who is Jackie? What does Jackie like to do for fun? I couldn't answer the question. **Jackie was lost; I only thought about my husband and the girls.**

I told the therapist that I liked to bake cakes for the girls' birthdays and family parties. The therapist came back with information about baking classes and materials and pushed me to sign up for a

class at Michael's. Little by little I started to bake more cakes and even sell them to friends and people at Mothers' Club. I really like baking and wanted to learn more but baking school is very expensive and I couldn't ask my husband for the money. I didn't think it was going to happen, but then the staff at Mothers' Club said I could apply for a grant to get money to go to school. Now I go to school on Saturday and Sunday at the Riverside Training Center to get my certificate to become a baker. **Now I have dreams and goals for the future. I want to own my own bakery and make it my career. I am going to be somebody.**

Mothers' Club has changed my life in every way. It taught me to be a patient parent with positive discipline for Lesly and Bonnie, to be a better partner for Marco, to be closer as a family and to remember to think about myself. I can now report: my daughter, Lesly, is doing great in Kindergarten and is at the top of her class; Bonnie will continue into kindergarten next year; Mario is working full time; and I am currently taking cake orders.

Mothers' Club has a very special place in my heart because the programs, the staff and its spirit have helped me through so many difficulties in my life. **I can truly say, without a place like Mothers' Club, my life would be filled with sadness.** Thank you donors, please continue to support this great organization. We need a Mothers' Club in every neighborhood.

- Yakelyn Hernandez
Mothers' Club Participant



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Artwork by Brianna, Age 4

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