

## Special Edition - 2007 Annual Report

### From the President

2007 was truly an amazing year for Mothers' Club. We set a lofty goal of raising \$6.5 million to purchase and construct our new Family Learning Center at 980 North Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena, in the heart of the Northwest community. As of June 30, 2007 we had raised over \$5 million and were on track to meet our goal by November 1, 2007. Construction was well underway and we were planning to move into our new home in October 2007. All of this was made possible by the generosity of our donors, the hard work of our Board, and the dedication of our staff.

Looking back on how we arrived at this point, it has been a remarkable journey. We adopted our Strategic plan in May 2005 after two years of outreach and dialogue with our community. With the plan's adoption, we committed to conducting "a capital campaign to secure a permanent home for Mothers' Club" that would meet existing program needs and allow for expansion. By November 2005 we were in escrow for the property on North Fair Oaks. Now, just

two years later we are in our new home and moving forward!

We are making plans to grow our services. No longer constrained by inadequate facilities and limited hours, Mothers' Club will be able to serve our families in an environment that is state-of the art. The Board made a decision to construct a facility that would achieve a Gold level L.E.E.D. designation (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Signs of this achievement can be seen throughout the site, including the photovoltaic cells that generate more than 30% of the building's power. We also made a commitment to become a licensed pre-school facility. Our staff is already at work filing the necessary documentation with the State of California to achieve this milestone.

Our Strategic Plan included a goal for increasing Mothers' Club's visibility in the community. Our new location, new logo, and new descriptor name, Mothers' Club Family Learning Center, are all contributing to this effort. We are also pleased that the number of people who contribute at the Guardian level continues to grow. Our Guardians provide stable operating revenue and are a critical part of the Mothers' Club family.

What a year for Mothers' Club! After serving Pasadena for over 45 years, we have now secured our place in Pasadena for AT LEAST another four decades. Thanks to all of our friends, donors, and volunteers who have made this a transformational year for Mothers' Club.



Judy Wilson  
Board President  
2005-2007

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Visit our website at  
[www.mothersclub.org](http://www.mothersclub.org)



# Our Two-Generation Learning Model - Educating Young Children and Their Parents Side by Side



## Our Mission

Mothers' Club prepares families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life. We promote strong parent-child relationships and encourage friendship and mutual support among mothers through our education programs and social services, thereby creating a stronger community for all families.

## About Mothers' Club

Founded in 1961, Mothers' Club is built on two guiding principles: in order for significant, long-term change to occur within a family, you must reach both parent and child and educate them together; and the most critical time to reach a family is when children are proven to be most vulnerable and impressionable, between birth and five years-old.

Mothers' Club reaches families in Northwest Pasadena, one of the most densely populated, impoverished areas of Los Angeles County where **40% of families** with children under five live below the federal poverty level, and **49% of adults** 25 years and older do not have high school diplomas. Of the families served last year:

- ✓ 91% of children were living in poverty;
- ✓ 62% of parents did not have high school diplomas, with 47% having less than a 9th grade education;
- ✓ and 71% spoke a language other than English in the home.



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## Early Childhood Education

It is our vision that all children in our community will be nurtured and educated during their first five years, they will develop healthy bonds with their parents and teachers, and enter kindergarten ready and able to learn.

Our research-based curriculum promotes healthy social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language development, as well as self-worth and confidence. We have five developmentally appropriate classrooms for infants, toddlers, two-year-olds, preschoolers and pre-kindergarten children.



## Parenting & Adult Education

It is our vision that every mother in our community will be prepared for her role as her child's first and most influential teacher. She will know that she is never alone as a parent, and that she is a life-long learner. The following are some of the classes and activities that make up our program for parents:

- ✓ Parent Education Classes,
- ✓ Adult Literacy & ESL Classes, Family Literacy Classes, Career Planning, Leadership Training
- ✓ Parent & Child Literacy Activities & Assisting in Children's Classroom
- ✓ Family Home Visits
- ✓ Parent Support Groups, Family Crisis Counseling, Referrals to Specialized Services
- ✓ Health & Wellness Seminars
- ✓ Family Events & Field Trips

# 2007 Highlights & Accomplishments

## Opening our New Home

After 46 years of being a tenant and having to set up and break down our classrooms each day, we now have a wonderful learning center designed specifically for our two-generation learning model. Our center at 980 N. Fair Oaks Avenue opened in October 2007 and families were overwhelmed by their new home. One mother said to Executive Director Sue Kujawa, "Oh, we don't deserve this." Ms. Kujawa replied, "Yes, you do!" Everyone deserves inspiring, thoughtful spaces in which to learn and grow.



## An Exemplary Family Literacy Program

In 2007, Mothers' Club was one of only three programs in Los Angeles County to participate in an evaluation process designed by the Family Literacy Support Network to be validated as an Exemplary Family Literacy Program. The rigorous eight month long process involved amassing a portfolio of evidence documenting the array of best practices used by the agency throughout its family literacy program.

Barbara VanHorn of the Goodling Institute at Penn State and Chris Dwyer from RMC Research and Evaluation Corporation reviewed the best practices to verify that they indeed lead to exemplary outcomes for young children and families. One of the objectives of the validation process is for programs to demonstrate how program activities influence child school readiness, increase family involvement, and family goal achievement. Mothers' Club received validation in October 2007.

## Best Practices Support Positive Learning Outcomes for Parents and Children

In its 2007 program year, Mothers' Club **served 78 parents with 85 children**. Year-end assessments revealed that children are on track developmentally and ready for school, and parents are gaining the skills and confidence they will need to help their families and themselves achieve success in the future.

## 2007 Outcomes for Children

- ✓ 100% of preschool children entering kindergarten demonstrated growth 98% of the time in the pre-literacy and other skills known to support a successful transition into kindergarten
- ✓ 100% of children from birth through four-years-old demonstrated growth in all development areas: cognitive, social/emotional, physical and language skills

## 2007 Outcomes for Parents

- ✓ 74% of adults studying English as a Second Language achieved a 3-5 point gain on their Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System test score, demonstrating a significant increase in their English language writing skills.
- ✓ 96% of parents reported reading to their children 3 or more times per week
- ✓ 96% of parents reported having at least 26 children's books in their home

## Attendance & Retention - The Keys to Success

- ✓ More than 95% of families remained at Mothers' Club for the entire year or met their personal goals and completed the program.
- ✓ Families attended Mothers' Club at an 87% attendance rate.
- ✓ High attendance and retention rates are critical to any successful program, and they exemplify the commitment families have made to breaking the cycle of poverty and illiteracy within their families.



ASSETS	2007	2006
Cash	1,113,943	299,051
Investments, at fair value	270,777	204,554
Grants receivable	143,869	745,954
Prepaid expenses	20,404	7,887
Unconditional promises to give	1,406,919	405,566
Property and equipment, net	2,408,932	2,440,473
Construction in Progress	2,270,807	-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>7,635,651</b>	<b>4,103,485</b>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	316,899	36,398
Note payable	1,615,000	1,615,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,931,899</b>	<b>1,651,398</b>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	2,876,985	561,457
Temporarily restricted	2,725,767	1,789,630
Permanently restricted	101,000	101,000
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>5,703,752</b>	<b>2,452,087</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$7,635,651</b>	<b>\$4,103,485</b>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2007	2006
Contributions	833,421	1,029,581
Capital campaign contributions	2,955,759	1,496,850
Donated Services	133,918	54,600
Interest and dividend income	39,589	3,105
Net unrealized/realized gain on investments	10,179	18,727
Special events	106,909	64,870
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>4,079,775</b>	<b>2,667,733</b>
EXPENSES		
Program Services	588,155	576,964
General and administrative	80,322	105,301
Fundraising	159,633	131,316
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>828,110</b>	<b>813,581</b>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	3,251,665	1,854,152
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,452,087	597,935
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$5,703,752</b>	<b>\$2,452,087</b>



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*Donor lists are based on donations and pledges received from July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007. Capital gifts include gifts in support of our event "Going GREEN for Families". If you find an error, please accept our apologies and call our Development Office at (626) 792-2687, ext.122.*



## From the Director

It's hard to believe a single year could contain so many events and yet pass so quickly! The focal point of the 2006-07 fiscal year was to transform our newly purchased home at 980 N. Fair Oaks Avenue into a model family learning center. In spite of the daunting task, I knew we were in good hands. With the creative energy of John Dale from the architectural firm of Harley Ellis Devereaux, the expertise of G. L. Kaplan Construction Company, and the professional management of Jaylene Moseley, I knew our dream would soon become a reality.

And I was equally confident that we would successfully reach our fundraising goals for the project. Again, with our team - how could we fail? We had the fearless leadership of Judy Wilson, the unwavering commitment of our Board of Directors, and the generosity of our donors. I told myself, again and again, that Mothers' Club was just like the "Little Engine that Could" I kept telling myself "I think we can, I think we can, I think we can" as we climbed onward and upward.

Meanwhile, our successful two-generation programs continued to provide education and enrichment to the many families who came to us seeking support and guidance. For the families, it was a "normal" year,

thanks in large part to the enthusiastic teaching of our program staff who remained focused on the children and parents and continued to come up with creative lessons and activities to engage them. The families enjoyed their annual trip to the beach during the summer months. The mothers presented their traditional Thanksgiving pageant followed by a bounteous potluck.

Many of our donors shared their blessings by adopting our families for the Christmas holiday. The children learned their letters, sang songs, built structures, and painted pictures. The parents practiced newly learned skills, built new friendships, and watched their children with pride. It was a busy year for all.

During the year, just in case we didn't have enough challenges, the Program Directors completed an application and assessment process that resulted in Mothers' Club being named an "Exemplary Family Literacy Program" by First 5 Los Angeles, one of only three in LA County. The rigorous process of documenting our practices kept us grounded in our mission and values and served to re-commit us to our vision of a community where all children are prepared to be successful in school.

And then it was over! We packed up our belongings and moved into our new home. And it was wonderful, marvelous, perfect - worth every penny and every anxious moment! And we opened our doors, and the families came to us and the children started learning their letters, and the mothers began to make friends - and so we continue!

Sue Kujawa  
Executive Director

## From A Mother

May 2007-Since we got the news about our new building, I'm so happy for that, because it's going to open the door to new projects in our lives and our children. I'm very happy for our new home, because we are going to have a bigger space for our children to enjoy more. I imagine the new building with its own playground, with swings and a garden full of flowers, and also another one for the children to plant some vegetables. Also the mothers will enjoy bigger classrooms, a library and more computers, as well as our new, equipped kitchen. I'm so excited waiting for the inauguration.



I would like that while in the new building, I have the chance to go to college, since thanks to Mothers' Club I was able to obtain a high school diploma, so I can stand out in my education.

This program is like a factory that helps us build our own wings, and it prepares us to fly in our home and in our society through education. My wings are almost ready to fly, but unfortunately my heart is not ready to set out, because that would mean that I had to leave the program. I would like to thank all the donors who help make this dream possible, and also all the team that works at Mother's Club. We as moms are also trying to put a grain of sand in this effort. Our way to cooperate this year was by making yard sales and selling food among us. That's how we donated more than \$1,000. Only God and us know how wonderful this program is, since it fulfills all the needs in our families. My family and I wait anxiously, enthusiastically, and joyfully the opening of our new home.

Marichuy Amezcua  
Mother & English as a  
Second Language Student

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Julie Espinoza, Family Literacy Coordinator  
Julia Heintz-Mackoff, Development Associate  
Maria Juarez, Office Manager  
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Maria de la Cruz  
Monica Montenegro  
Rosalina Reynoso  
Nydia Rivero  
Josefina Rodriguez  
Consuelo Vasquez  
Rocio Zarazua

**Community Open House Schedule**

Please join us at the new  
Mothers' Club Family Learning Center  
for a tour and conversations with staff and Board members

One Tuesday per Month from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

February 26

March 18

April 22

May 13

June 17

To provide a courtesy RSVP, or for more information,  
please call us at (626) 792-2687 ext. 122.

**Mother's Day Cards**

Each year the mothers in our programs create hand-made Mother's Day cards which can be ordered for your beloved mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and other meaningful mothers in your life.

If you have ordered cards in past years - watch the mail in April for your order form. If you have never ordered before, you can download an order form online at [www.mothersclub.org](http://www.mothersclub.org) - follow the "Mother's Day" link on the homepage.

For information, call  
(626) 792-2687 ext. 122.



Mothers' Club Family Learning Center  
980 N. Fair Oaks Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91103

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