

A message from the CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters of United for Families:

I want to thank you for your unwavering support in 2006. To say we could not have done it without you would be an understatement. The past year at United for Families has been one of change, new challenges and increased community expectations. While it has been personally an extremely rewarding year for me as the new Chief Executive Officer of United for Families, I believe that the sharpening of our strategic focus has also resulted in a successful year for us all. United for Families, with the help of the community, pulled together and accomplished many important objectives.

During my tenure at United for Families I have witnessed only dedication, creativity and the pursuit of excellence at every level in the company. Very, very special people work at United for Families. There is no "business as usual" here, for our business is every known abused and neglected child in Martin, Indian River, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties. United for Families' staff truly knows their mission, "to break the cycle of child abuse through a diverse network of community partners and innovative services". They know their mission because they wrote it.

Our pledge to you in 2007 is to meet the challenges of the future honestly and openly. We are your **community-based lead agency** for child welfare services and we will continue to grow and respond to your needs. Whether child or parent, relative or foster parent, provider or funder, Alliance member or Guardian Ad Litem, you are all essential to our success. Thank you for walking the long, long, road to end child abuse and neglect with us. Together we will accomplish great things for children and their families.

Christine W. Demetriades

Our work, our achievements

United for Families was created in 2002 in response to a statewide, bi-partisan initiative that privatized public child welfare services. We are a non-profit agency charged with delivering local services and supports for children and families in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast.

Our network of providers and the services we entrust to them are comprehensive. More than 2,000 children and families in St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee counties have access to services that include: domestic violence and substance abuse prevention, housing assistance, foster care and adoption, family support services, individual and group counseling and behavior management. Through these services, we hope to strengthen families, and reduce the number of children in the child-welfare system.

We proudly present the following achievements:

Safety

- ✓ In 2005, 96 percent of children remained safe while in care. The state target for this measurement was 95 percent, placing United for Families third among other Community Based Care organizations throughout Florida.
- ✓ The average length of stay for children in foster care was 11 months. The state target was less than a year.

Permanency

- ✓ United for Families completed the successful adoptions of 76 children, exceeding the agency's annual goal of 75.

Well-being

- ✓ In 2005, United for Families gave out 134 shoe vouchers, provided extracurricular activities for 66 children, provided car safety seats to foster parents, provided school supplies to 300 foster children and distributed 3,000 gifts to nearly 1,000 children during the holidays and sent 98 children to summer camp.
- ✓ United for Families established a child safety seat loaner program to increase a foster parent's capacity to care for young children.

Our programs, our future

United for Families will continue to improve local child welfare by blending creative energy and new ideas with trusted practices and veteran expertise. Following is a sampling of programs that will lead United for Families closer to its mission of breaking the cycle of child abuse:

RAPP Relatives As Parents Program. This Kinship program offers a support group, educational seminars and an emergency fund to relatives and non-relative caregivers.

Family Group Decision Making This "kitchen-table" approach to social work brings all essential players in a child's case plan around a single table, assigns tasks to each participant and prevents children from entering the foster-care system.

Foster Parent Mentor Program/Co-Facilitators These programs retain foster parents by involving them in their own support services. Veteran foster parents help teach foster-parent training classes and mentor new foster parents.

Training National experts provide community training opportunities in the areas of substance abuse, domestic violence, family group decision making and staff development.

A Financial Overview

Revenue: \$20.3 million	Out-of-Home Services: \$5.42 million
Expenses: \$20.1 million	Adoptions: \$2.3 million
Administration: \$2.6 million	Contributions and Fund-raising: \$40,000
Program Services: \$9.78 million	

Expenses by Program Type

Prevention: \$337,000	Administration: \$2.6 million
Foster Care: \$1.52 million	Other Programs: \$2.84 million
Adoption: \$2.3 million	Group Care: \$3.9 million
	Case Management: \$6.6 million



Our Gratitude!

\$10,000-\$25,000

Children's Services Council of Martin County
Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County

\$5,000-\$9,999

Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida

\$1,000-\$4,999

Children's Home Society
Family Preservation Services
Royal Palms of St. Lucie County
Beneficial
Safe Harbor Financial

\$50-\$999

Window Doctor
South Florida Orthopaedics
Bert Dubose
American National Securities
William Laderer
Buford Construction
D. Larabell
Premier Lab
TLC Carpet & Upholstery
Dorothy's Hair Studio
Glenn J. Sneider, LC
Hibiscus Children's Center

Gifts In-Kind

(\$100 and above)

Ace Hardware	WQCS 88.9 FM Radio
Baby's Two Consignment	WPSL
Stork Stop	Coca Cola Bottling Co.
Life Line of Martin County	Southern Eagle Distributors
Grace Place	Tropicana
Collins family	Martin Memorial Health Systems
Demetriades family	Manatee Floors
Gunther family	La Buona Vita
Harvey family	Retired Educators of St. Lucie County
Kaiser family	Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County
Ted Moroz	St. Edward's Upper School
My Aunt's House	Melvin Santos
Melvin Santos	Jean Vision
Jean Vision	City of Stuart
Jane Addams Project	QVC
Traci and Nick Crispine	Michael Thorpe Real Estate
Cute Kids Consignment	Bank of America
Dr. Laura Schlessinger Foundation	Royal Palms of St. Lucie County
Val Carswell	RJM Builders
Donna Brewster	Retired Educators of St. Lucie County
Kathy Decker	South Florida Orthopaedics
Pat Waffenschmidt	Treasure Coast Dermatologists
Joan Dewall	Indian River Realtors Association
St. Andrews Episcopal Church	Martin County Sheriff's Office
St. Josephs Catholic Church	Bankok Bay
The Holy Place	Indian River County Schools
Indian River Presbyterian Church	St. Lucie County Board of Realtors
Vero Beach Presbyterian Church	Indian River Realtors Association
St. Lukes Episcopal Church	Coldwell Banker
Grapevine United Methodist Church	All Florida Realty
Girls Scouts of the Palm Glades	Stuart Kiwanis
West St. Lucie Elks Lodge 2823	Stuart Police Department
Junior League of Indian River County	Realty Unlimited
First Baptist Church of Okeechobee	Morningside Elementary
Dr. Harris Goldberg	Michael Kaiser Family
Title 2000	Children's Emporium
City of Fort Pierce	Boys and Girls Club of St. Lucie
City of Vero Beach	Jerry Norman Mobile Auto Repair
United Way of St. Lucie County	Bernard Egan and Co.
Palm Beach Post	Summerlin Marine
Hometown News	Grapevine Community Church
Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers	Grapevine United Methodist



Our Mission, Our Vision

United for Families' mission is to break the cycle of child abuse through a diverse network of community providers and innovative services.

Our commitment to the community is to ensure safety to all children and to provide permanent homes for them. We envision a community where the safety and well-being of children is the concern of every individual; where "Safe Place" is not just a sign on a door, but a creed in every home. We believe that every child deserves a healthy family, and that every weakened family deserves a chance to heal. United for Families will lead the community in the pursuit of these ideals and be a recognized statewide lead, providing a continuum of dynamic and innovative services for children and families.

Board of Directors

Pat McCoy
Okeechobee County
School District, Chairwoman

Robert Stevenson,
M&M Petroleum Inc.

Scott Sade
Smith Barney

Michelle Miller
Miller Insurance Inc.

Debra Bouchard
Riverside National Bank

Sandy Foote
Retired

Steven Simon
Rosenthal & Levy

Jay Lundy
Fort Pierce One Stop Career
Center

Jack Roberts
Retired

Janie Gould
WQCS 88.9 FM



10570 S. Federal Hwy., Suite 300
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
(772) 398-2920 Phone
(772) 398-2925 Fax



Annual Report 2005-2006

