

2011

ANNUAL REPORT



CHILD *link*
linking **CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

DEDICATED

Child Link's staff is caring, motivated, engaged, and directly responsible for their accomplishments. High satisfaction and retention rates allow us to focus on our vision, maximizing our quality of service.



Dan Palmer, *Child Link Board Chair*
Malia Arnett, *Child Link President and CEO*

BALANCED BUDGET

- **FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE:** Increased return on every fundraised dollar
- **PURPOSEFUL GROWTH:** Doubled annual revenue in just two years and tripled the number of children served
- **SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE:** Ranked #1 in Illinois based on measurable DCFS standards

PROVEN TRACK RECORD

- **GOAL ORIENTED:** Met 120% of year-to-date adoption goals
- **COMMITTED TO CHILDREN:** Dedicated to safely reuniting children with their families
- **COURT APPROVED:** Recognized repeatedly for outstanding work on behalf of juveniles
- **STAFF EXCELLENCE:** Highly qualified staff with a great morale and strong work ethic

Child Link strives to ensure that our community's most vulnerable group—orphaned and unaccompanied infants and children—are safe, nurtured, educated and skilled to transition into adulthood. The days of Oliver Twist are long gone but the need for diligent effort supporting our basic values for these at-risk children: safety, protection, service quality and fairness, remain.

Child Link believes in accountability to the children we serve, our foster families, and to the donors and foundations that make our success possible.

With professional and caring staff, we are able to maintain a high employee retention rate, which allows us to focus on our mission and maximize our quality of service.

Along with our heartfelt concern for our children, we are a fiscally responsible organization dedicated to utilizing our resources wisely. With our balanced budget and superior performance, we sow not only positive results but also purposeful growth within our agency and community.

In just three years, Child Link has doubled its annual revenue and tripled the number of children served. Due to our proven track record and high performance rankings, donors have become confident in not only our programs but our philosophies as well.

We invite you to become part of our cause and continue the commitment we have made to link our children with loving and stable families.



RESPONSIBLE

FOSTER CARE

Child Link provides foster care services to area children through a contract with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Our agency has been ranked #1 for the past several quarters in Illinois for ensuring our children are placed into stable and loving homes.

Our scores are excellent in all DCFS reviewed areas, which include: Child Safety, Permanency and Court Performance.

ADOLESCENT FOSTER CARE

Our Counselors evaluate each teen's physical and psychological makeup in order to determine their needs and provide them with the right placement and treatment. This often includes individual therapies, as well as referrals for other needed services.

Child Link seeks to secure permanent homes for orphaned and abandoned infants and children of all ages through our foster-to-adopt program. During placement, our staff plans for each child's specific needs to ensure the he or she has a bright future.

ADOPTION

We work to coordinate no-fee adoptions with prospective foster parents following state mandated background checks and home studies. Before we allow any adoption proceedings to take place, however, Child Link employees investigate all family placement options in order to prevent future disruptions.

It is because of our diligence during investigations and the planning process that our success rate remains exceptionally high.



CHILD & YOUTH COUNSELING

As we see more youth joining gangs or committing suicide, at Child Link we believe it is our duty to stop this violence. These deaths are unnecessary, and we believe it is important to come together and provide youth with the counseling they require to avoid the loss of these young lives.

Out of 42 local organizations, Child Link is the only to provide counseling services to children in their schools. Here at Child Link, we hope to provide counseling to all those who seek help and guidance.

Our counselors evaluate the teen's physical and psychological makeup in order to determine their needs and provide them with the right treatment. This often includes individual or family therapy, as well as referrals for other needed services.

HOMELESS YOUTH OUTREACH

Child Link works to understand the conditions that lead to homeless teens and develops a long-term permanency plan for each individual teen.

Child Link goes beyond its duty to seek out homeless youths and provide them with the necessities they need to flourish and find stability.

Unfortunately, it is during adolescence that young people become increasingly vulnerable to negative influences within their community. These youth tend to put themselves in high-risk situations, which could lead to negative consequences.

Child Link provides these teens with immediate support - including clothing and medical examinations. Often times, these teens are unaware of the services available to them, and it is Child Link's duty to ensure they are safe and off the streets.



Child Link's Counseling Team

COMPREHENSIVE

BILINGUAL SERVICES

Child Link believes that allowing families to fully participate is essential to ensuring all children and youth are prepared for success despite any language barriers.

Child Link provides vital services to many Spanish-speaking children in Pilsen and Little Village. The partnerships our counselors have made with the schools in surrounding communities work to meet each child's individual needs. Several members of the Child Link staff are bilingual, and able to provide both English and Spanish services when needed.

A conscious effort is always made to place a Spanish-speaking or bilingual child into a foster home that has been deemed as such. Child Link staff performs a language determination when needed to correctly identify the primary language of each foster family.

As a member of the Latino Consortium, Child Link partners with multiple child welfare agencies to organize resources and supports for Latino families in Chicago and throughout the state of Illinois.



Child Link's Bilingual Team

Back: Lilia Reyes, Angela Moncada, Priscilla Martinez
Front: Rosa Fries, Malia Arnett



TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM (TLP)

Child Link's Transitional Living Program works to provide a stable living environment for young women ages 18-21 who are transitioning out of the foster care system and into adulthood.

Our case managers use this short time the girls are with us as an opportunity to help the girls develop any necessary skills that they have not yet mastered. These skills include but are not limited to financial and household management. Each girl is presented with an individualized plan of achievement and is expected to work hand-in-hand with her case manager to stay on track towards her goals.



Transitional Living Program Ribbon Cutting

Thank you to (left to right): Deborah Towner, Assistant to Representative Arthur Turner; Erwin McEwen, Director of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Ruth Graff, Assistant G.M. Downtown/Property Manager of BridgeStreet Worldwide; Danny Solis, 25th Ward Alderman and President Pro-Tempore; Malia Arnett, President and CEO of Child Link; Steve Bricker, Senior Loan Officer of Illinois Facilities Fund

WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

There have been many advances for women over the past few decades, professionally, socially and globally.

Child Link seeks to inspire young girls to become successful women. Many of these young women have no mothers, grandmothers, aunts or sisters to guide them.

We seek to involve women who are willing to share their life experiences to sponsor and take part in our events that assist in building successful, educated, and well-rounded young women.

Our annual Women's Initiative Luncheon brings together women in business, industry, education, and government, as well as homemakers, to support our Girls First Club and Professional Mentoring Program.



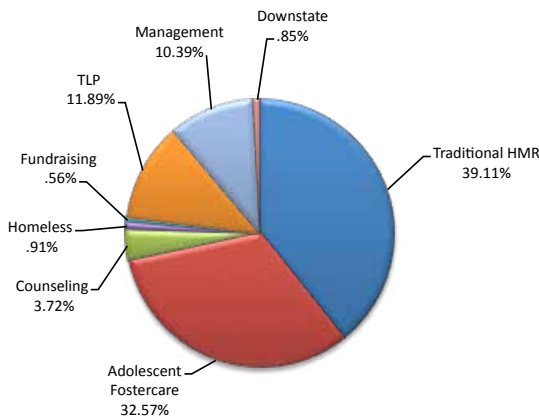
Attendees of Child Link's Annual Women's Initiative Luncheon enjoying themselves before lunch is served.

ACCOUNTABLE

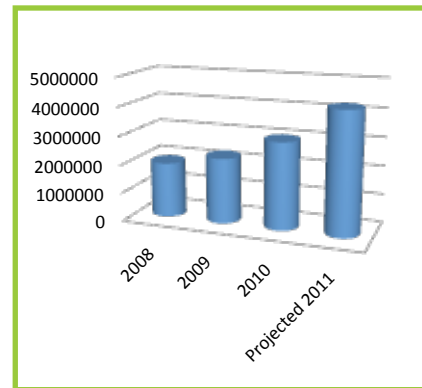
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Child Link, Inc. Revenue Growth

	2010	2009	2008
Revenues	\$3,033,836	\$2,288,525	\$1,931,644
Expenses			
Program Services	2,697,269	1,980,592	1,692,285
Management & General	314,654	245,333	198,196
Fundraising	16,914	21,628	37,541
Total Expenses	\$3,028,837	\$2,247,553	\$1,928,022
Net Income	\$4,999	\$40,972	\$3,622
Assets			
Cash	120,396	125,070	83,103
Accounts Receivable	169,537	135,427	99,666
Equipment	829,157	756,038	6,502
Other Assets	11,716	21,019	22,732
Total Assets	\$1,130,806	\$1,037,554	\$212,003
Liabilities and Net Income			
Accounts Payable, Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities	1,096,196	903,943	119,364
Total Net Assets	\$34,610	\$133,611	\$92,639
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,130,806	\$1,037,554	\$212,003



OPERATING EXPENSES 2010



REVENUE BY YEAR

PERFORMANCE

DCFS PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING EVALUATION

Fiscal Year 2010 4th Quarter Results

#1 Child Link

97.5

Lawrence Hall Youth Services	90.3	Childserv	67.4
Ada S. McKinley Community Services Inc.	88.1	Universal Family Connection	65.8
One Hope United - Northern Region	85.9	DCFS Cook North Region	65.5
Unity Parenting and Counseling	85.2	DCFS Cook South Region	64.7
Aunt Marthas Youth Services Center Inc	84.4	Children's Home & Aid Society of Illinois	62.4
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois	81.5	DCFS Cook Central Region	61.2
Lakeside Community	80.6	Association House of Chicago	60.2
Volunteers of America	78.5	The Youth Campus	54.0
Lydia Home Association	78.1	Shelter, Inc.	49.2
Evangelical Child and Family Agency	77.7	Lutheran Child & Family Services	47.4
ABJ Community Services, Inc.	77.3	Uhlich Children's Advantage Network	44.0
Centers for New Horizons Child Welfare	71.7		

Today, more than ever, it is essential that non-profits run more effectively. Child Link allocates its resources economically and ascertains that there are no redundancies in activities. We strive to exceed the standards of other agencies. Tough economic times have provided motivation for developing new strategies to create more dynamic and efficient models for delivering services and generating revenue for programs.



*"I am delighted to inform you that Child Link, Inc. has been re-accredited. In addition, Child Link, Inc. was expedited through the Pre-Commission Review Report (PCR) process as a result of not receiving any out of compliance ratings in any of the fundamental practice standards. **Congratulations on this amazing achievement.**"*

Richard Klarberg
President & CEO
Council on Accreditation



PURPOSEFUL

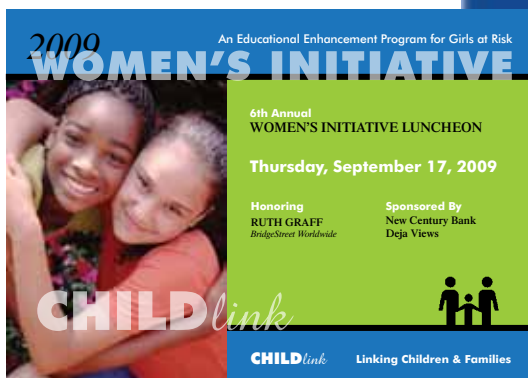
ANNUAL EVENTS

- April – Spring Flower Sale
- May – Women’s Initiative Luncheon
- June – Blues Bash Concert Fundraiser
- August – School Supply Drive
- October – Baby Supply Drive
- November – Beaujolais Nouveau Wine Tasting
- December – Holiday Gift Drive & Celebration



Beaujolais Nouveau Wine Tasting

Left to Right: Major Sponsors Chris Heller and Mark Seter, with Patricia Seter.



THANKFUL!

MAJOR SPONSORS OF CHILD LINK

Baci Salon

Beckie Barnes

Bella Bacinos - LaGrange, IL

Black United Fund

Robert Brejla

Bridgestreet Worldwide

Brooks, Faucet, Robertson LLC

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Chicago Department of Youth and Family Services

Chicago Sinai Congregation

Computer Troubleshooters

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Cathleen Domanico

Al Domanskis, Boodell & Domanskis LLC

Tiffani Engstrom

Kelly Ferguson

Francesca's Bellezza - LaGrange, IL

GXA Design, Inc

Laurie Hackler

Chris Heller

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Mainstreet Wines & Liquors - Countryside, IL

Mary Maltese

MB Financial Bank

Midwest Generations

Nickson's Eatery

Prasino

Q BBQ

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory -
LaGrange, IL

Amy Schaeffer

Gerda Schell

Mark Seter

Sidley Austin, LLP

Softer Lite Window Company

Walter & Connie Payton Foundation

West Fuels, INC

Whole Foods - Hinsdale, IL





OUR MISSION

To make human services available to all children and youth in need of support.

We strive to provide:

- Adoptions and guardianships linking children permanently to families
- Comprehensive child protection services
- Support services for children and adolescents
- Compassionate individual, family, and group counseling
- Transitional living for older teens
- Secure and safe homeless youth intervention

CHILDLINK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Dan Palmer, *Bank of America*

Treasurer

Tony Spears, *MB Financial Bank*

Secretary

Barbara McIntyre, *BridgeStreet Worldwide*

Board Members

Carrie Kreydick, *Rodan + Fields Dermatologists*

Gina Lovejoy, *Forsythe Solutions Group*

Robyn Foster, *Black & White International*

Mary Maltese, *MB Financial Bank*



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