

Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

In this annual report – our first – I'm pleased to state that Ampersand Families had an exciting year. We are the most financially stable we have been since our inception. We are expanding our donor and supporter base and are in the process of developing our first strategic plan. Our co-executive officers are known as thought leaders on the issue of adolescent permanency and have trained hundreds of child welfare professionals across the state and country.

Part of our mission states that we champion practices in adoption and permanency that restore belonging, dignity and hope. One thing that sets us apart is our unconditional support – we ask families to provide unconditional commitment to the teens that they adopt and in return, and in return we provide unconditional support to families at no cost and for as long as we are needed.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and are excited about our future – we think you will be too.

*Here's to hope,
Michelle Kellogg, President
Board of Directors*

From the desks of Jen Braun & Michelle Chalmers, Co-Founders & Co-Executive Officers

Ampersand Families' mission is to recruit and support permanent families for older youth, and champion practices in adoption and permanency that restore belonging, dignity and hope. We believe that kids who are adopted are far less likely to wind up on the streets or in jail, and they get something most of us take for granted: a family to share our triumphs and to fall back on when things go wrong.

Program Update: Youth & Family Services

As we approach our fourth birthday, we look with satisfaction at each of the 28 youth for whom we have successfully secured permanent families. Data from this year includes 7 adoption finalizations (ages 14 to nearly 18), as well as 7 more youth who are in their pre-adoptive homes (ages 10 to 17), with plans to move at least 3 more into their pre-adoptive home in the next month. We've also worked with 18 families that have been brought through the home study and adoption licensing process or are well on their way. Further, we've provided a teen adoption orientation to 50 individuals in the past year alone. Finally, we've supported over 80 individuals in families, which includes teens and young adults. Something that sets us apart is that we don't leave our families behind once the adoption happens. We can't heal years of chaos and trauma overnight, and so we remain unconditionally committed to the families who step forward to parent older youth. Our support is pivotal in helping to maintain adoptions.

Ampersand Families serves youth and families statewide. The youth that we serve are among the highest at-risk populations. Their backgrounds and current reality can be heart-breaking, with many coming from a background of trauma experienced during critical developmental years and a gamut of behavioral, emotional, physical and/or mental health challenges. These youth need ongoing support and additional education, medical and/or therapeutic help as they grow older, often entering foster care due to abuse or neglect. Most of the kids have moved around multiple times.

Program Update: Community Outreach & The Minnesota Heart Gallery

Ampersand Families' message has been able to reach nearly 25,000 community members through the Minnesota Heart Gallery. The Heart Gallery is a statewide effort that harnesses the efforts of volunteer professional photographers to take personality-capturing photographs of children and youth who are awaiting adoption. These photos tour publicly in an exhibit, and are also in an online gallery. The Heart Gallery provided free professional photo shoots for 60 waiting children this past year, including 8 sibling groups, representing every corner of the state. Also, over 30 new photographers have offered their services, bringing our total to well over 150 active volunteer photographers. And, over 100 families have used our website to inquire about specific kids or about older child adoption. We were also honored this past November when the Heart Gallery received an award for meritorious services in adoption recruitment by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Adoption Resource Network.

Ampersand Families also provided consultation and training statewide and nationally for all manner of professionals on the child welfare spectrum. We've trained nearly 1,000 child welfare workers this past year, including being honored as the keynote speakers to the South Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Conference held in October. And we presented, for the sixth year, at the National CASA

Conference in Washington, DC. All of these speaking opportunities allow us to help others learn best practice for teens in need of permanency and have both a regional and national impact.

Program Update: Other Happenings

One important activity that Ampersand Families is going through right now is a strategic planning process. The Board and CEOs are asking a host of questions, including how important it is to develop a research-informed knowledge base to guide and improve practice. Stay tuned in the coming year for some exciting updates as we unroll our strategic plan.

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How the books look

Ampersand Families is happy to report that the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2012 with a surplus. Earned revenue increased overall by about 7%, while contributions increased by 28%, strengthening our fiscal stability. Fundraising expenses are around 6% of our overall budget, while the total for program services was over a quarter million dollars, or 82% of our expenses. As programs and priorities are refined and refocused, the underlying fiscal health of Ampersand Families remains strong.

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	175,918
Accounts Receivable	55,579
Pledges and Grants Receivable	1,365
Prepaid Expenses	12,263
Property/Equipment	2,456
TOTAL ASSETS	247,581
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
NET ASSETS	28,062
TOTAL LIABILITIES/ASSETS	247,581
CONTRIBUTIONS	
EARNED INCOME/GOVERNMENT	129,633
OTHER INCOME	248,632
DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	4,704
TOTAL SUPPORT/REVENUE	(8,685)
	374,284
PROGRAM SERVICES	277,638
SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	
Management	38,834
Fundraising	21,317
	60,151
TOTAL EXPENSES	337,789
Change in Net Assets	36,495

*Figures provided by the independent auditing firm of
Carpenter Evert & Associates, Ltd.*

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*denotes previous donor

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