



Celebrating Growth

Christopher House 2012 Annual Report



Dear Friends,

At Christopher House, we believe a holistic approach to education is the key to success. Our innovative services for infants, toddlers, children, teens, and parents offer the quality educational programming and comprehensive support necessary to foster self-sufficient, thriving families. Our clients are low-income, hardworking individuals from neighborhoods throughout Chicago's North and West Sides. They come to us with the desire to move themselves and their families forward, and so we help them help themselves.

2012 provided us with many causes for celebration. We saw our clients grow through their involvement in our programs. One hundred percent of parents made progress towards their educational, literacy, budgetary, and employment goals. Our children and teens took great strides as well

– 84 percent achieved at least two out of three self-determined goals. Our littlest learners made remarkable advances in their social, cognitive, language, and literacy development. Christopher House remains a leader in non-profit program evaluation and is committed to using quality, data-based programs to achieve meaningful, concrete results. In the past year, our diligent monitoring of clients' needs allowed us to adapt our offerings to best serve our community.

We are also excited to report on the progress of our expansion into Belmont Cragin. Construction is underway on our new Family Resource Center and our first Elementary School. With these facilities, opening in fall 2013, we will extend our nationally-renowned approach to education and family services by through an innovative, transformative educational model to prepare students for success in college and beyond. By offering our full continuum of care at this site, we will strengthen and empower more economically disadvantaged families.

The pages of this report celebrate the growth achieved by our clients, staff, and organization as a whole over the past year. All of the accomplishments described were made possible because of the support of our ever-expanding community of volunteers, partners, and donors. We thank you for believing in our mission and for helping us change lives. We hope you will celebrate with us in the years to come as we continue to expand and deepen our impact on low-income children and families.

Best wishes,



Lori Baas
Chief Executive Officer



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Our Mission

Christopher House is a catalyst for helping at-risk children from birth to age 18 thrive by taking a comprehensive approach to education and creating lifelong learners. We focus on each child's overall growth and development which has a positive, measurable impact on their ability to succeed. Understanding that educating the child is not enough, we also provide supportive services to the entire family that help build stability and self-sufficiency. We serve over 4,000 children and family members every year through our five sites on Chicago's North and West Sides.

Our Vision

As a national leader, we will provide low-income children and families with equal access to tools and opportunities. Our programs will be dynamic, innovative, creative, and designed to improve the quality of family and community. Our best practices will be replicated across the country because of our clear and measurable impact toward strengthening families and communities.

Our Core Values

- Commitment to Excellence
- Achievement & Perseverance
- Respect & Compassion
- Equality of Opportunity

2012 Highlights

- **Our Logan Square center became the first center in the city of Chicago—and one of only five in the state of Illinois—to receive a four-star rating** from the state of Illinois' Quality Rating System (QRS)!
- **Construction is underway on our Belmont Cragin Family Resource Center**, which will open in fall 2013 to provide our full range of services to this high-need community. In anticipation of this opening, we are providing prenatal education services to 40 mothers in the community.
- **We are gearing up for the launch of Christopher House Elementary School** in the Belmont Cragin neighborhood. Opening in fall 2013, this unique school will eventually serve more than 500 students and their families, beginning with 112 kindergarten and first grade students in our first year.
- **Five-year-olds in our Early Childhood Education program developed the cognitive and math skills to succeed in kindergarten** at a rate 30% higher than the city-wide average.
- For the third straight year, **100% of the high school seniors enrolled in our Youth Leadership program graduated on time**. To put this in perspective, the 2012 5-year graduation rate for CPS students overall was 60%. **100% of our graduates also enrolled in college** in this past fall!
- **We led series of six-month-long professional development cohorts for our teachers focuses on integrating quality early mathematics instruction** into daily one-on-one classroom engagements. As a result, the average math score of our early childhood students rose dramatically from 4.15 to 4.69.
- **We began a partnership with Wilbur Wright College** to provide high-quality educators for our ESL, ABE, and GED courses. Enrollment and retention have increased since the partnership began.



Our Growing Community

Rogers Park — 7059 N. Greenview Ave.

Services: Early Childhood Education

Uptown — 4701 N. Winthrop Ave.

Services: Early Childhood Education, School Age, Family Support Services, Prenatal & Parent Education

Greenview — 2507 N. Greenview Ave.

Services: Early Childhood Education, School Age, Family Support Services, Prenatal & Parent Education

Avondale — 3516 W. School St.

Services: Youth Leadership

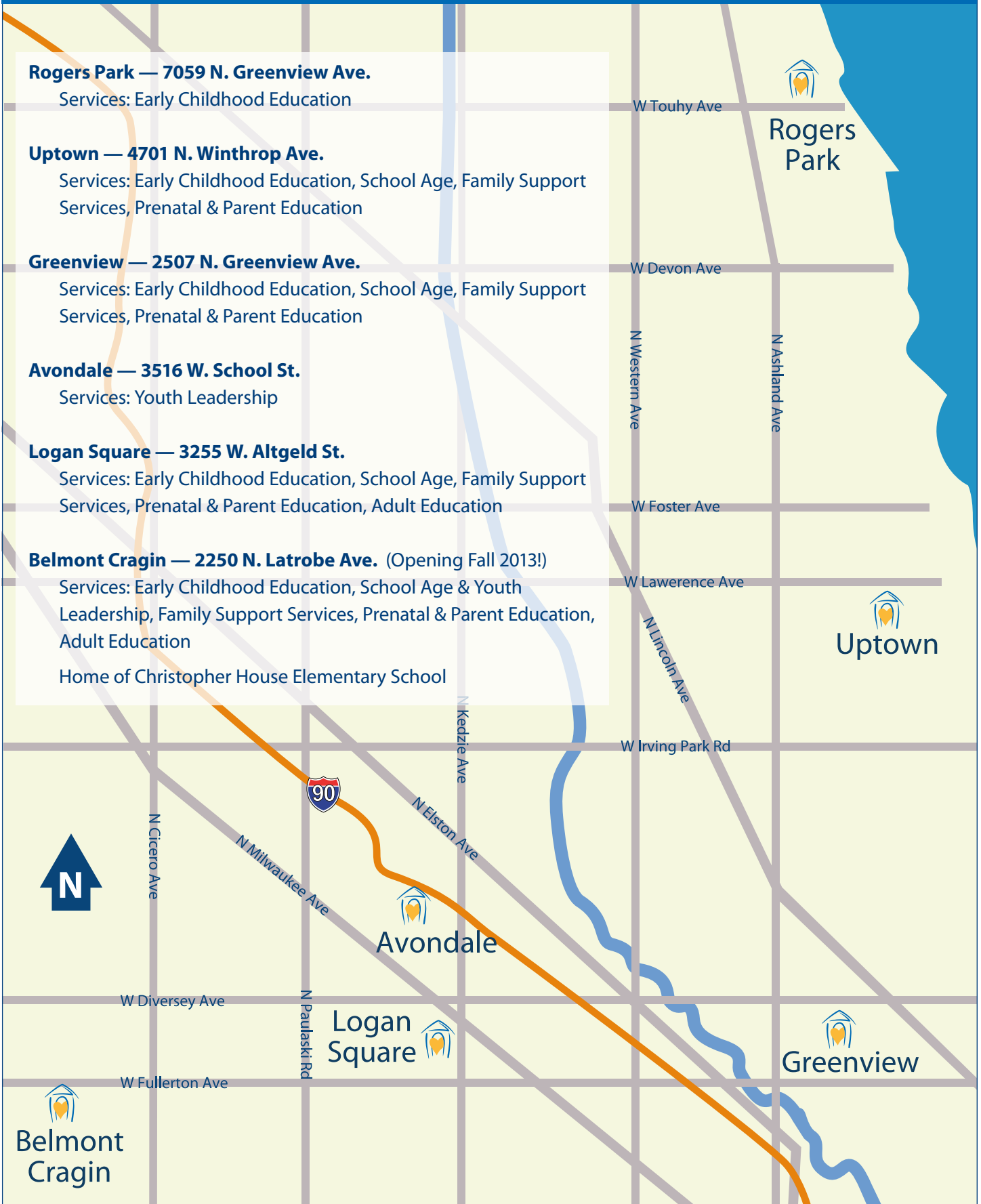
Logan Square — 3255 W. Altgeld St.

Services: Early Childhood Education, School Age, Family Support Services, Prenatal & Parent Education, Adult Education

Belmont Cragin — 2250 N. Latrobe Ave. (Opening Fall 2013!)

Services: Early Childhood Education, School Age & Youth Leadership, Family Support Services, Prenatal & Parent Education, Adult Education

Home of Christopher House Elementary School



Educating the Whole Family



Our educational programs:

- Prenatal and Parenting Education including labor support, home visiting services, workshops and peer support groups that prepare at-risk and teen mothers to be their child's first teacher
- Accredited, full-day Early Childhood Education to build a healthy foundation for learning and prepare children for kindergarten through soft and hard skill development
- An innovative, family-centered Elementary School, opening in fall 2013, that builds on the academic and social-emotional growth of children who graduate from our preschool program and will ensure that the students are prepared for success in Chicago's best high schools and beyond
- Academic, social, and emotional support through our School Age Services during hours when parents are at work, after school, and all day in the summer
- One-on-one academic assistance, mentoring, and college preparation and career exploration through our Youth Leadership Program

Our family support services:

- Individual and Family Counseling with on-site, licensed, clinical social workers
- Adult Education including GED and ESL classes to help parents gain access to new employment opportunities and be more involved in their children's education
- Food Pantry, Holiday, and Emergency Assistance programs

Measuring Our Impact

Christopher House is at the forefront of program evaluation.

Data-Driven Programming

Each Christopher House program or service has a set of three to five indicators that measure our clients' progress throughout the year. We strive to create a culture of high performance and goal setting and attainment. We track indicators of:

- Cognitive, physical, and emotional development in our infants and toddlers
- Academic achievement and social behavior in our children and teens
- Increased knowledge of healthy, supportive parenting practices
- Increased ability of each family to thrive

Need-Based Care

We conduct an annual Family Needs Assessment to evaluate program effectiveness and ensure responsiveness to families' concerns. We collect and analyze family demographics and needs in several dimensions, including education, housing, and healthcare. Results from the assessment are used to:

- Inform agency-wide programming
- Identify and work directly with individual families to create short- and long-term goals and provide support around their specific needs

Progress Through Collaboration

Since its inception in 2009, Christopher House has functioned as the project manager for the Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative, an alliance of seven human service agencies that collectively serve more than 10,000 at-risk individuals throughout the city. These agencies are dedicated to increasing the quality of services offered to low-income families. The Collaborative sets standardized desired outcomes, employs uniform research-based assessments, tracks data in a shared database, discusses findings together, and implements data-based program improvements. This system drives meaningful and tangible change for Chicago's at-risk population.



Leading the Way in Early Childhood Education



Nurturing literacy, motor skills, positive social behavior, cognitive development, and long-term success.

Jacob's Story:

Jacob* was born three months premature, weighed only one pound at birth, and had a variety of mental and physical challenges. When Jacob enrolled in Christopher House as a six month-old, he was at the developmental level of a three month-old. His first six months in the program were difficult as he underwent multiple surgeries and was regularly hospitalized. Throughout this challenging time, Jacob's grandparents, his therapists, and our early childhood staff worked together to implement a plan to support Jacob's healthy development.

Today, at nearly two years-old, Jacob is reaching developmental milestones. He is walking and breathing on his own, beginning to talk, and eating age-appropriate food. Jacob is on a path to having many more opportunities in life because of the support he received at a pivotal time in his development.

**Names have been changed to preserve the privacy of our clients*

2012 Snapshot

We served **480 children** from 6 weeks to 5 years old.

94% of 3 to 5-year-olds

showed a dramatic increase in cognitive development (at least a full step on the Teaching Strategies GOLD Individual Child Profile)

Half of parents read daily or **increased their frequency of reading** with their child.

For the last three years, **our programs have scored a 100%** from National Association for the Education of Young Children in the areas of assessment, teaching, and parent/family relations.

Developing Self-Motivated Learners

Promoting academic achievement, self-confidence, and positive decision-making skills for low-income children and teens.

Sofia's Story:

When Sofia entered our School Age program at 6, she was experiencing extreme difficulty in communicating emotions. She struggled academically and had severe break downs. With help from Christopher House, Sofia began identifying her triggers and using non-violent methods to communicate anger. She and her mother began family and individual therapy. Her mother also partnered with our educators and her school to set plans for Sofia's academic track. Today, Sofia is a leader in her classroom. She offers advice children who experience similar issues saying, "I know, I have anger too—maybe you can talk to someone." She has improved her math performance by two letter grades. With her mother's support and engagement, Sofia has blossomed into a strong, confident, and intelligent 5th grader.

Elena's Story:

In Chicago, only 4% of low-income public school students graduate from college by the time they are 25. Christopher House helped Elena beat those odds. Elena began attending Christopher House as a Head Start student. As she entered elementary school, she continued to attend Christopher House's Youth Development programming. Through the support of Christopher House and her family, when in 6th grade, Elena set the goal of attending Northside College Prep. This selective-enrollment high school offers classes only at the honors and AP level, and few students are from low-income backgrounds. Elena is currently a junior at Northside. With the help of Christopher House, she recently earned a college scholarship and is on-track to be the first in her family to graduate from college.



2012 Snapshot

260 students, ages 5 to 18, served in our after school programs

100% of high school seniors graduated on time and enrolled in college for the fall.

98% of youth were promoted to the next grade on time.

100% of children reduced their instances of misconduct or maintained records of good conduct

Engaging Parents, Strengthening Families

Fostering stable, self-sufficient home environments and helping families grow through:

- Prenatal and parent education
- Adult education (ESL & GED classes and tutoring)
- Comprehensive family support

Dylan's Story:

When Dylan came to us as a three-year-old, was non-communicative, wouldn't make eye-contact, and would scream if teachers tried to comfort him physically or verbally. Our staff developed strategies centered on family engagement. We supported his parents through the process of developing an individual education plan with his school. With support, Dylan became more verbal about his needs and more interactive with his teachers and classmates. As one teacher put it, "We've gone from just managing behavior to sharing academic and emotional learning with him." His parents partner with our staff, checking out books and puzzles from our Parent Resource Center every week to continue his education at home. Through family engagement, Dylan is now on a path to school readiness.

2012 Snapshot

235 parents were enrolled in prenatal and/or parenting support groups, where 100% of the participants increased their knowledge of parenting and child development.

84% of adult learners who completed at least 64 hours of instruction significantly increased their English language skills.

1,371 participants received food from our food pantries, helping them build their knowledge of a nutritious diet.

226 families received emergency financial assistance to help them through a specific crisis and stay on track toward their long-term goals.

1,400+ participants received food for holiday meals



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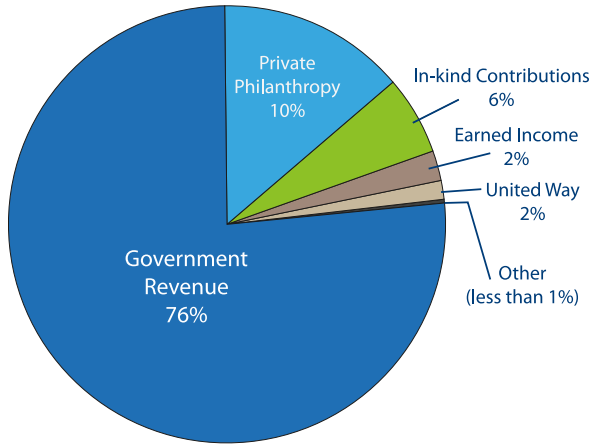
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Year End June 30,	2012	2011
ASSETS			
Cash		\$500,690	\$242,959
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$6,500 and \$4,400 in 2012 and 2011, respectively		\$968,876	\$913,104
Capital campaign/annual fund pledges receivable, current portion		\$267,433	\$407,818
Other receivables		\$133,525	\$100,368
Prepaid expenses and other current assets		\$46,216	\$23,290
Total Current Assets		\$1,916,740	\$1,687,539
INVESTMENTS, AT FAIR MARKET VALUE		\$1,139,559	\$1,126,966
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT			
Land (Chicago Board of Education lease)		\$825,000	\$825,000
Donated land		\$852,822	\$852,822
Building and Improvements		\$6,897,797	\$6,897,797
Construction in Progress-Belmont Cragin		\$923,484	\$190,949
Leasehold improvements		\$826,414	\$821,860
Furniture and equipment		\$413,600	\$409,250
Software		\$7,533	\$7,533
Total Property and Equipment		\$10,746,650	\$10,005,211
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION			
Net Property and Equipment		\$2,834,809	\$2,562,928
		\$7,911,841	\$7,442,283
NONCURRENT ASSETS			
Capital campaign/annual fund pledges receivable, net of current portion		\$164,717	\$162,218
Other assets		\$75,000	\$75,000
Total Assets		\$11,207,857	\$10,494,006
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Advances from government funding agencies		\$2,646	\$3,027
Accounts payable		\$647,122	\$172,613
Accrued liabilities		\$62,146	\$60,162
Payroll deductions payable		\$293,532	\$226,865
Accrued vacation		\$76,070	\$83,671
Notes payable, current portion		\$67,780	\$67,780
Total Current Liabilities		\$1,149,296	\$614,118
Notes payable, long-term portion		\$1,399,709	\$1,467,489
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$2,549,005	\$2,081,607
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted		\$5,204,969	\$4,862,506
Temporarily restricted		\$3,423,382	\$3,519,392
Permanently restricted		\$30,501	\$30,501
TOTAL NET ASSETS		\$8,658,852	\$8,412,399
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		\$11,207,857	\$10,494,006

Financial Statement

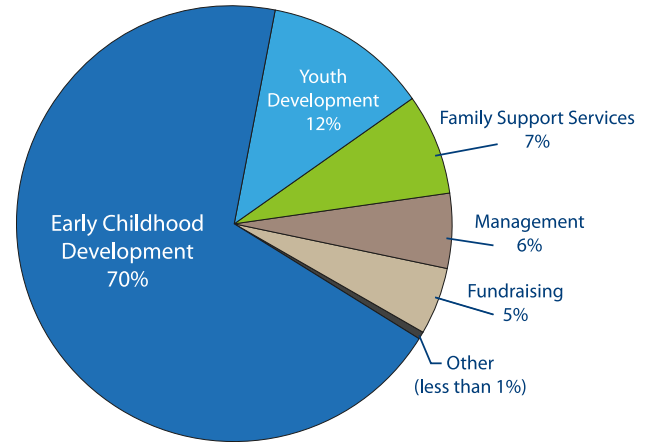
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	Year End June 30,	2012	2011
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Public Support			
Contributions		\$699,804	\$553,804
Special events		\$362,099	\$332,664
Annual fund campaign		\$24,423	\$81,997
Capital campaign pledges received		\$235,482	\$200,878
United Way		\$150,000	\$90,010
In-Kind Support			
In-kind contributions		\$558,329	\$716,275
In-kind contribution - Chicago Board of Education			
In-kind contribution - Belmont Cragin construction			
Total Public Support		\$2,030,137	\$1,975,628
FEES AND GRANTS FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES		\$7,359,990	\$7,110,578
REVENUE			
Program service fees and incidental revenue		\$180,187	\$133,490
Dividend and interest income		\$36,067	\$38,181
Miscellaneous		\$1,117	\$2,277
Total Revenue		\$217,371	\$173,948
Total Support and Revenue		\$9,607,498	\$9,260,154
EXPENSES AND LOSSES			
Program services		\$8,348,230	\$8,281,616
SUPPORTING SERVICES			
Management & general		\$528,738	\$413,071
Fundraising		\$471,877	\$429,340
Total supporting services		\$1,000,615	\$842,411
Total Expenses		\$9,348,845	\$9,124,027
Net realized gains (losses on investments)		-\$12,200	\$81,613
	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$246,453	\$217,740
	NET ASSETS, AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$8,412,399	\$8,194,659
	NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$8,658,852	\$8,412,399

Financial Statement

FY 12 REVENUE



FY 12 EXPENSES



EARLY HEAD START (EHS) FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013		July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012		July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011	
	Budget		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
EHS revenue	\$1,352,945		\$1,266,088	\$1,115,979	\$1,247,279	\$1,098,097
Other revenue	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$11,500	\$0
Total revenue	\$1,352,945		\$1,266,088	\$1,115,979	\$1,258,779	\$1,098,097
Operating expenses	\$1,352,945		\$1,257,718	\$1,151,738	\$1,166,431	\$1,061,763
Capital expenses				\$4,350		\$40,903
Total expenses	\$1,352,945		\$1,257,718	\$1,156,088	\$1,166,431	\$1,102,666
Revenue/expense variance	\$0		\$8,370	-\$40,109	\$92,348	-\$4,569





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