Mission
Applewood Centers fosters solutions for children, youth and families.

Vision
Applewood Centers is a leader in improving the lives of children in Ohio by providing high quality behavioral healthcare and out-of-home services for children and their families.

Commitment
- Deliver high quality, results focused programs and services
- Ensure the agency's long-term economic viability
- Develop a diverse team of skilled professionals
- Build on over 175 years of excellence in service
- Serve a diverse population reflective of our community
- Monitor and ensure desired outcomes for children
- Employ training and technology to best support excellent service
- Embrace our core values in all we do.
Dear Friends:

Never before in our agency’s history has the future of funding for the services Applewood provides been in such serious question. The economy, the political climate, the healthcare system, and the local, state and federal landscapes are all in a state of flux. This environment poses challenges for us as providers of care, as well as for the thousands of at-risk children and families we serve each year. We believe that what will set us apart is how we meet those challenges.

As you will see in the following pages, despite the difficult times, Applewood has accomplished much to serve the needs of children and families in the past year. Our Residential Treatment program served 90 children with severe mental health and behavioral issues. The average length of stay for these youth was 112 days or under 4 months, and only 5 of them returned to more intensive settings. Our Gerson Schools for students with emotional and/or behavioral issues continued to flourish. The Eleanor Gerson High School grew to over 40 students and successfully graduated 7; Gerson West, a brand new program serving grades 6-9 ended the year with 10 students. A newly developed summer program for youth with emotional issues provided therapeutic and recreational opportunities for 80 children in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties. And thousands of youth and families received counseling services in schools, in their homes, and in our offices.

Looking forward, we find ourselves faced with a climate that demands flexibility, creativity, and courage. A crystal ball would certainly help, but absent the ability to see the future, we must make decisions about how to best navigate today’s environment, always with an eye toward how things may change in six, or nine or twelve months. What we know is that dollars from major funding streams such as Medicaid, the safety net that covers over 90 percent of Applewood’s clients, are likely to decrease; and that expectations of treating clients more quickly and efficiently are likely to be greater.

So, how do we continue to provide the same level of much-needed mental health treatment, social service programming and educational services with less? We prepare. We prepare our managers, our staff, our clients, our stakeholders. We look at increasing staff productivity expectations; improving technology; streamlining paperwork and overhead. We advocate with funders, government officials, and politicians to remember the needs of children and families. And we make passionate pleas to our generous donors to continue to support the work we do. One thing is for certain: we intend to be proactive, to respond to change quickly, and to carry on our mission to provide quality care to children and families in our community.

As we look back on 2010, and look forward into 2011, we ask that you remember the needs of at-risk children and families and take every possible opportunity to speak up for them, and to make choices that will enable the work that we do continue to flourish.

As always, we thank you for your continued interest and support.

Very truly yours,

James S. Hogg
Chair, Board of Directors

Melanie K. Falls, LISW-S, LICDC
Executive Director
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM
HELPING CLIENTS RECOGNIZE PERSONAL VALUE

Applewood Centers’ Residential Treatment program has evolved over the years to meet the needs of troubled youth; modifying its program to include evidenced-based therapeutic interventions and expanding its outreach to children, families, juvenile courts and child-serving agencies in all 88 counties in Ohio.

Today, the program focuses on trauma recovery, and rebuilding trust and hope for youth with a variety of behavioral health issues, including those who have been severely traumatized. By providing clients with a structured living environment, individual and group therapy, and offering opportunities to engage positively in the community, the treatment team works to encourage respect for self and others, and promote personal growth and responsibility. Family members are actively engaged in both treatment and aftercare plans.

Over the last several years program staff has enhanced its involvement with juvenile courts across the state, including the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court’s Youth Family Community Partnership. To prevent future involvement with the court, agency staff works closely with the courts and probation officers, while affecting client thinking and value systems.

Those who have been involved with the juvenile justice system are taught self-esteem, self-management, and character building techniques; and re-taught positive attitudes, values, and behaviors. The treatment team strategically works to reverse the negative emotional states that support criminal behavior, including: rage, anger, defiance, impulsivity, weak problem-solving skills, among others. The team also works with clients on developing independent living skills and setting goals.

To help youth garner a sense of community, each client actively participates in a variety of community service projects. This summer, the Urban Garden Project was unveiled, which visually enhances the program’s campus and provides an enriching experience for clients, community service projects. This summer, the Urban Garden Project was unveiled, which visually enhances the program’s campus and provides an enriching experience for clients, community service projects. This summer, the Urban Garden Project was unveiled, which visually enhances the program’s campus and provides an enriching experience for clients, community service projects. This summer, the Urban Garden Project was unveiled, which visually enhances the program’s campus and provides an enriching experience for clients, community service projects. This summer, the Urban Garden Project was unveiled, which visually enhances the program’s campus and provides an enriching experience for clients, community service projects. 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The Residential Treatment program has seen youth make huge strides in overcoming their past to emerge not just healed, but as positive role models for their peers.

FROM JUVENILE COURT TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD
A YOUNG MAN’S PATH TO SUCCESS

His father had a history of substance abuse and legal involvement, and he was heading down a similar path. Eduardo, 17, was involved with juvenile court, had significant depression and anxiety, problems in school, and was abusing drugs and alcohol. His parents were divorced and his mother remarried, which put a strain on their relationship.

When Eduardo was referred to Applewood Centers’ Residential Treatment program, the treatment team found that, despite all these issues, Eduardo was intelligent, enjoyed helping others, and was invested in making positive changes. He was interested in physical exercise, biology, and proved to have a talent for art.

While in a 3-month placement, Eduardo participated in group and individual therapy. He learned how to build his self-esteem and character; and realized what he is able to accomplish by exhibiting a positive attitude and holding honorable values. And through family therapy, Eduardo was able to reunify with his mother and stepfather.

After leaving the program, Eduardo earned his GED and participated successfully in aftercare recommendations. He is amicably moving out of his mother’s house and plans to join the U.S. Coast Guard to become a rescue diver/swimmer.

Client name changed to protect privacy.

Did You Know?

The program is offered through two secure units, Apple Blossom for Girls and Orchard for Boys, which treat adolescents ages 11 to 18 and offer 30-day assessments and short term stays. Younger children are accepted on a case-by-case basis. The program’s goal is to successfully place youth back home.

Cognitive behavioral therapy is used with clients to address pro-social thinking and values and helps youth with post-traumatic stress, reactive attachment and conduct disorders.

Clients with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders have access to alcohol and drug treatment.

The treatment team works with clients involved with juvenile court to address: anti-social personality, attitudes and values; anti-social friends; family dysfunction; lack of self-control; lack of problem-solving skills; and substance abuse issues.

Program staff is trained in the use of the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) System, developed by Cornell University, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), developed by Marsha Linehan, Ph.D., at the University of Washington. TCI aids in de-escalating crisis situations and DBT is a highly-successful treatment model for those with rapidly shifting emotions, issues with character, and life-threatening behaviors.
THE MURAL PROJECT

A Timeline

**WINTER 2010**

The Residential Treatment program director contacts a local artist with an idea to paint murals on the walls of the residential campus’s Multipurpose Building. The idea is discussed among staff and clients. Excitement builds.

**SPRING 2010**

Clients and staff begin the project by priming the walls in the hallways, group and yoga rooms. Clients have an opportunity to submit drawings of what they’d like to see on the walls. They choose images with positive value statements taught in treatment: Accountability; Character; Community; Contribution; Courage; Honor; Respect.

**SUMMER 2010**

The fervor about the mural project seeps into the community. Neighbors and those working at local business and organizations begin to paint and donate supplies. The number of those involved from the community builds to 100, including the director of Building Bridges, Cleveland’s Public Mural Project.

**FALL 2010**

The Plain Dealer covers the project in its Art Section in the October 23, 2010, issue. It’s accompanied by a photograph of two clients who worked on the murals. On October 26, 2010, a Community Mural Art Show and Reception is held. Nearly 75 tour the building and others unable to attend make arrangements to view.

As one client said, “This just wasn’t any project — it was a time for bonding… I personally developed great relationships. When I was aggravated or upset, working on the project would clear my mind.”

With the help of Building Bridges and local artist Tally Fruchtman Rossiter, this project engaged the following partners in our city to come together for a common goal: helping youth— the future of our community:

- American Legion Auxiliary of Teddy M. Zieja, Unit 627
- Applewood Centers TLC Committee
- Building Bridges - Cleveland’s Public Murals Project
- Cleveland Automobile Club Orphans Outing Fund
- Cleveland Second District Commander Keith Sulzer
- Coffee Amore and Gargano’s Catering
- Daisy Avenue residents
- Eleanor Gerson School Summer Art Club
- Forest City Enterprises
- J.S.I.
- Lorain Furniture and Appliance
- Pizza Pan, West Park
- RPM International
- St. Mark Catholic Church
- St. Paul Church Outreach Program
- Second District Community Relations Committee
- The Sherwin-Williams Company
- Subway, W. 25th Street

**ACCOUNTABILITY • CHARACTER • COMMUNITY • CONTRIBUTION • COURAGE • HONOR • RESPECT**
**SERVICES**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**
- Counseling
- Psychiatry Services
- After School and Summer Programs
- School Based Services
- Early Childhood Mental Health
- Special Needs Child Care Consultation
- Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment
- Multisystemic Therapy

**RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT**
- Apple Blossom For Girls; a secure unit for adolescent females, ages 11 to 18
- Orchard For Boys; a secure unit for adolescent males, ages 11 to 18
- Alcohol and Drug Treatment
- Partial Hospitalization

**FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION**

**GERSON SCHOOL PROGRAMS**
- Eleanor Gerson High School for students (grades 9-12) who exhibit depression, anxiety, suicide ideation, have been bullied, have a history of absences and tend to internalize.
- Gerson West School for students (grades 6-9) who have ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, poor social skills and peer relationships, and persistent discipline problems

**BILINGUAL SERVICES**

**AFFILIATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS**
- Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County
- American Psychological Association
- Child Welfare League of America
- Coalition for Cuyahoga County's Children & Youth
- The Joint Commission
- Lorain County Board of Mental Health
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Service Providers
- Ohio Departments of Education, Mental Health, and Job and Family Services
- United Way of Greater Cleveland
- Voices for Ohio's Children
- Wingspan Care Group

**Accomplishments**

- Applewood Centers expanded its After School Program and introduced a summer program for children with emotional and behavioral difficulty. In the summer of 2010, approximately 50 children in Cuyahoga County and 30 children in Lorain County received intensive group counseling and engaged in educational and recreational activities.

- Youth in the Residential Treatment Program embarked on the Community Mural Project, involving hundreds of community volunteers who decorated the walls of the Multipurpose Building. See page 5 for more about this project.

- Applewood's Gerson School programs continued to grow. The high school ended the school year with more than 40 students, and successfully graduated seven students. The new Gerson West program, serving students in grades 6-9, finished the year with 10 students. Both schools received referrals from multiple districts in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties.

- Our annual fundraising event, Applewood's Fore Kids Golf Classic, held at Chagrin Valley Country Club, attracted 100 golfers and more than 40 sponsors and donors.

- Applewood's office in Lorain County successfully launched an Intensive Home Based Treatment (IHB) program to serve youth with severe emotional difficulties and their families.

- The agency continued its strong presence in schools, delivering mental health services in 34 schools in Cuyahoga County and 36 schools in Lorain County.

- Applewood's Multisystemic Therapy (MST) program partnered with Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court to provide intensive community based treatment to 70 youth charged with serious legal offenses and at risk for out of home placement. 91% of the youth served were successfully retained at home in their communities.

- More than 25 organizations, businesses and groups contributed hundreds of gifts and volunteer hours during the annual Holiday Lights gift and goods drive, which benefitted children and youth served by agency programs.

- With generous funding from The Cleveland Foundation, the agency transformed its data center into a Level 3 Disaster Recovery Data Center. Updates implemented by the Information Technology Department ensured power source redundancy in case of unforeseen device failure, greater efficiency, backup power, fire protection, and centralized security.

- Deloitte chose Applewood Centers as the beneficiary of its Impact Day, and on June 11 sent 50 volunteers to the agency's Children's Aid Society Campus to garden and paint with supplies purchased by the company. The group was accompanied by 50 youth who were participating as part of the City Year program.

- The agency received additional support from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation to continue with the creation of an interactive teacher training program to help those who work with youth manage aggressive and disruptive behavior in students. Visit www.wviz.org/applewood for more information.

- The Foster Care Department offered a 6-week workshop for foster parents, through the Ohio State Extension, which provided information about nutrition and how to incorporate healthy meals and physical activity into daily family living.

- More than 30 Applewood clinical staff were trained in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), an evidence-based treatment model that is effective in treating individuals who have experienced significant traumatic events such as physical or sexual abuse, domestic violence, or loss of a loved one.

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APPLEWOOD CENTERS

Financial Report

EXPENSES BY TYPE

- Salary / Benefits: 59.00%
- Professional Fees: 21.00%
- Occupancy: 12.00%
- Depreciation / Equipment: 6.00%
- Development: 2.00%

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

- Community Services: 50.14%
- Residential / Group Services: 19.82%
- General / Administrative / Fundraising: 14.96%
- Education / Prevention: 8.88%
- Foster Care / Adoption: 6.20%

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2010
AUDITED BY MCGLADREY & PULLEN, LLP
The following individuals, corporations and foundations contributed to Applewood Centers between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010. Thank you for your support and trust as we help children, youth and families manage life’s challenges. We make every effort to ensure our donors’ names and contributions are reported accurately. If you believe we have made an error, please accept our apology and call the Development Office at (216) 320-8512 and we will be happy to make a correction in our records.
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Ms. Cheryl White

Ms. Verdie L. Wilburn
Ms. Margot Williams
Mr. Daniel Williams
Ms. Cristina Williams
Rt. Reverend and Mrs. Arthur B. Williams, Jr.
Ms. Maxine Williams
Wingspan Care Group
Ms. Anita Witt
Ms. Mary Wolf
Ms. Dianne Wyatt
Mr. and Mrs. David Wynn
Ms. Maria Zaczyk
Mrs. Donna L. Zajc
Mr. Michael J. Zapola
Ms. Tracy L. Zawie
Mr. Michael Ziegler
Ms. Kathleen Ziemba
Ms. Janet Zubricky
Ms. V. Sue Zwolinski
LOCATIONS

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2525 East 22nd Street
Cleveland, OH  44115-3266
(216) 696-5800  Fax: 696-6592

THE ELEANOR GERSON HIGH SCHOOL
1320 Sumner Avenue
Cleveland, OH  44115-2851
(216) 861-6015  Fax: 696-6986

JONES CAMPUS
3518 West 25th Street
Cleveland, OH  44109-1995
(216) 741-2241  Fax: 459-9821

CHILDREN’S AID SOCIETY CAMPUS & GERSON WEST SCHOOL
10427 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH  44102-1645
(216) 521-6511  Fax: 521-6006

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