WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER'S

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ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AREA RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 1

4011 W. Isabella Road

Shepherd, MI 48883

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WINTER 2002

New Officers and Directors Named to Guide WMFC

FROM THE OLD

The President's Message

The year 2001 was an exciting and a challenging year for West Midland Family Center.



Win Zacharias

We owe heartfelt thanks and appreciation to those who made the expansion possible...and kept the Center "going" while this fantastic project was being completed. We are all indebted to the architects, the contractors, the Board of Directors, the Staff, the Advisors, the many vol-

unteers, and the patrons for their hard work and their cooperation. They all made completion of the expansion project, under the leadership of Bob Dostal, Jerry Schaar and Greg Dorrien, possible. And they did it within budget!

We are forever indebted for the continuing generous support of The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, The Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation and The Dow Corning Foundation.

With the additional classrooms, the second gymnasium, the outdoor pool, the new computer lab, and the expanded administrative area, we have been able to serve a greater number of patrons of all ages with a broader range of services than ever before. Just a few examples are; Preschool Services, Success by Six—

See ZACHARIAS, Page 4

New Officers and Directors have been elected to lead West Midland Family Center in 2002. New officers are: Bob Dostal, President; Ben Dollard, Vice President; Jo Winchester (returning as Secretary); and Bill Schmidt as Treasurer. New Directors are Tom Gilstead and Sue Thumma.

Dostal previously served as President, and is returning to that position after a two-year hiatus, during which he served as Chairman of the Expansion and Fund Raising Committees while a member of the Board of Directors.

VOLUNTEER

Appreciation Dinner Sunday, April 28

Mark Your Calendar Now!

Dostal retired from The Dow Chemical Company in 1993 after a 38-year career in a variety of management positions including Corporate Director of Safety, Environmental Affairs, Security and Loss Prevention; General Manager of the Western Division and several management positions in the Michigan Division from 1955 to 1980.

Ben Dollard succeeds Jim Anderson as Vice President. Dollard has served on the Board for several years and chaired the Budget and Investment Committees. He previously served as Treasurer. He is a Personal Financial Advisor

See OFFICERS & DIRECTORS, Page 4

FROM THE NEW

The President's Message

It is again my honor to be asked to serve as President of the West Midland Family Center

Board of Directors. I pledge to do my best to continue in the fine traditions of the Center.

The year 2002 will be one of significant challenges for all involved in WMFC activities. With our expanded facility, we are in a wonderful position to better satisfy our Mission "...to enhance the quality of life for



Bob Dostal

area residents of all ages." Success in this task revolves around:

- Our dedicated staff continuing to provide the direction to better serve our community;
- · Utilizing our expanded facility efficiently;
- Relying more heavily on the efforts of our volunteers in these financially troubled times;
- Looking to our many, generous benefactors for their continued financial support.

With this in mind, your Board of Directors is committed to provide the leadership to ensure the WMFC will continue to provide high quality, needed programs and services to the West Midland County community. At the same time, due to State and Federal funding reductions, we must reprioritize our efforts in implementing some reductions to most effectively utilize our limited financial resources.

We have much to be thankful for!

Bob Dostal

A NEW FEATURE FOR FAMILY FOCUS

WMFC Supervisors Well Qualified for Their Specialties

Elaine Fabinski grew up in the cereal capitol of the world, Battle Creek Michigan. The



youngest of four children, Elaine graduated from Battle Creek Central High School and attended MSU where she earned a BA in Elementary Education. Upon her graduation from MSU, Elaine struck out for Colorado and a position teaching second graders in a

transient industrial area north of Denver. After living in Colorado for one year, Elaine returned to Michigan to marry John Fabinski. Elaine and John have two adult sons, Jim and Steve. When

her boys were young, Elaine stayed home with them, returning to the workforce as a Preschool Teacher at St. John's Episcopal Preschool.

In 1989, Elaine began working at WMFC as a preschool teacher. She is currently the Early Childhood Coordinator. The new responsibilities of the Early Childhood Coordinator require Elaine to split her time between teaching and coordinating. As a result, Elaine shares teaching duties with preschool teachers Wendy Plewa

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the first in a series of features about the WMFC Staff. Look for additional biogs in the future. and Katie Woods. This year Elaine teaches one preschool class. In past years she's had as many

as three classes. Elaine earned a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education from SVSU while teaching three preschool classes at WMFC. Quite an accomplishment!

WMFC. Quite an accomplishment!
Elaine is past President of the Mid-Michigan Association for Education of Young



Ginger Yarch

Children and is a Leadership Midland alumnae. She enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, sewing, roller-blading, reading and biking.

See NEW FEATURE, Page 4

"Community "R" Us" - A Message from the Executive Director

One of my favorite activities over the last 10 years has been giving more than 500 tours of our facility. The most frequently asked question



is... "how do you do it?" My standard reply is "I don't." Then the next 30 minutes is dedicated to showing one example after another about how it is the entire community makes this place come to life.

Greg Dorrien On tour we see people like Joyce Raab in the computer lab patiently explaining to area senior citizens how Windows 2000[®] works. It is Ginger Yarch demonstrating CPR or the proper way to save someone's life with our new Automated External Defibrillator. It's Paul Card and Don June making sure the kids in the home school basketball program get a chance to experience team sportsmanship like their public school counterparts.

It is Diana LaPorta reorganizing the free clothing room for the third time in one day. It's Blaine Johnson and Morval LaLone Trucking filling the swimming pool for free. It is our S.P.A.R.K. and T'nT kids planning, updating and painting the Teen Activity room so all teens can have a home-away-from-home feel.

It is Gene Dauer and all the BINGO crew raising another \$35,000 for youth activities. It is watching Susan Knapp carry the groceries into the Emergency Food Pantry, only to watch her help another struggling family carry them out the same afternoon. It is Jessica Herron helping a student understand his homework assignment. It is listening to Damian Sanderson or the other DOW COP students talk about the homes they helped fix up last summer.

At some point, someone will ask if we have any volunteers and I'll apologize for not making it clear that everyone we've talked about so far (and another 400 not talked about) are all volunteers. At that point, we start showing the programs that need the continual support that only a paid staff can be relied upon to provide every single day. Of course, it is the same community where we find our volunteers that we also find people who will accept a position to fulfill their personal mission (we rarely hear staff say "my job's at the Center").

Most people who tour from outside our county are usually looking at wanting to start something similar in their county. They hear of the outstanding United Way, Foundation, Government and Township support and they wonder how they can make it all happen (and usually all at once.)

It is at that point that I know that they wasted my time and theirs, because the key to this organization isn't the financial support, but it is that we are the community and they are us too. The tour representatives who walk out talking about building community support from within are the ones who always call back with something already started, and looking for a little more insight.

Like my good friend Chuck Infante always says, "People solve problems, money just helps." This reminds me of another favorite daily activity; opening the mail and finding an unsolicited check with only a note that reads, "Keep up the good work!" Chuck sure is right on both counts!

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PresidentBob Dostal
Vice PresidentBen Dollard
Secretary
Treasurer
Directors: Julie Arbury, Greg Bergtold,
Thomas Gilstad, Janet Miller, Sue Thumma,
Joe Vanderkelen, Win Zacharias
Advisors: Jim Anderson, Phyllis Breedlove,
Jim Burlingame, Michael Custer, Joe DuFort,
Bob Hermann, Charles Infante, Don Koster,
James LaBean, Jack Lee, Thomas Misner,
Chuck Norisez, Alan Oman, Jerry Schaar,
Roland Weaver, Ralph Wirtz

STAFF
Executive Director
Program Director
Financial Director
Office Manager
Administrative Assistant
Receptionists:
Lori Gravis
Maintenance Director Jeff Meyers
Maintenance Staff Gerald Burkett, Mike Kirby,
Kelli Bade
Telecommunications Specialist Christy Chappel
New Initiatives & Promotions Susan Love
Dow College Opportunity Program
Director
Tutoring Coordinator
Family Services Director Renee Shauger
Family Coaches Amy da Silva, Dianne Fleming
Family Consultant Lois Burton
Recreation and Aquatics CoordinatorRenee Allen
Youth Services Director Rex Donoghue
Youth & Teen StaffAmanda Allen,
Mike Brewer, Mike Burton, Kori Carter,
Nicki Gainsforth, Mike Iseman,
Gabe Miller, Stephanie Morgan, Tonya Morton,
Alice Oliver, Tony Rosado, Joe Spencer,
Andi Strohm, Renee Surdu, Katie Tache,
Ryan Warner
Early Childhood Coordinator Elaine Fabinski
Childcare Director
Teachers Elaine Fabinski, Wendy Plewa,
Katie Woods, DeeDee Campbell
Early Childhood StaffEileen Burch,
Sheena Burch, Sheleigh Burton, Tricia Chappel,
Misty Dopp, Mary Hintermeister, Shelly Miller,
Leslie Noykos, Gloria Onstott, Penny Owen,

Eva Searfoss, Becky Sexton, Barb Simons, Kristen Wendling, Vonda Wendt, Keri Yarch,

Senior Program StaffSusan Wells

Gena Zanbergen.

MAJOR BUILDING EXPANSION DONORS

Organization	Amount
The Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow Foundation	\$1,500,000
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation	750,000
The Dow Chemical Company Foundation	240,000
Charles J. Strosacker Foundation	
The Dow Corning Company Foundation	90,000

ORGANIZATION BENEFACTORS FOR 2001

Organization	Amount	Organization	Amount
The Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow Foundation	\$1,000,000*	Midland Preschool Centers	3,000
State of Michigan	547,962	Yost Enterprises	3,000
United Way of Midland County	210,000	Greendale Township	2,500
Alden & Vada B. Dow Family Foundation	73,317	Snow Machines, Inc.	2,500
Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation	45,000	First United Methodist Church	1,500
West Midland Family Center Auxiliary	33,920	USDA	1,323
Midland Area Community Foundation	31,210	The Herbert & Junia Doan Foundation	1,000
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation	21,000	Homer United Methodist Church	960
Charles J. Strosacker Foundation	15,600	Comerica Bank	500
The Dow Chemical Company Foundation	10,000	Sunrise Optimist Club	500
Midland County Youth Action Committee - MC	YAC9,940	Humanities	
Homer Township	6,250	Memorial Presbyterian Women	200
Children's Trust Fund	6,037	Caltech Industries	100
Lee Township	5,000	Midland Seventh Day Adventist Church	100
Midland County Child Protection Council	5,000	TOPS	100
NE Michigan Arts Council	4,000	Bullock Creek Basketball team	50
Bergstein Trust Fund	3,000	Oil City Assembly of God* *5 year matching grant pledge toward the WMFC Program Endowm	

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

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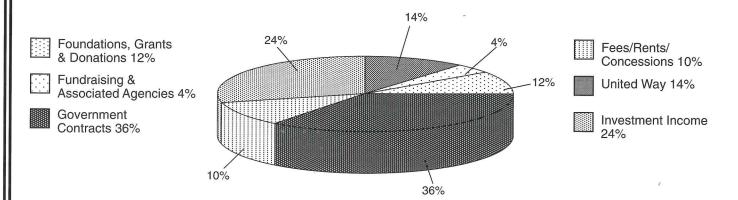
Renee & Mike Allen, Ardith Arbury, Julie Arbury, Karen Asher, Amy Bailey, Robert & Sheryl Bertapelle, Sally & Gary Billotti, Charles & Connie Bianchard, Stuart & Katherine Branson, Colin Broddle, Jim Burlingame, Kendra Burton, Ruth & Bill Caldwell, Robert & Carole Coffield, Janet & Daniel Cronkright, Leon & Patricia Crossman, Doris McGraw-Dauer, Diane DeMott, Helen Dockham, Richard & Donna Dolinski, Greg Dorrien, John & Virginia Dorrien, Bob & Mary Dostal, Joe & Stacy Dostal, Robert & Kim Elliot, Larry & Dianne Fleming, Kendra Funk, Dana Gilber, Roger Gohrband, Robert & Nancy Grubich, Floyd Hall, Bart & Karen Harbron, Gilbert & Miriam Harter, John & Mary Hinson, Earl & Alma Hoon, Robert & Ann Hotchkiss, Ruth Houlihan, Norman & Ruth Hozak, David & Francis Hunt, Cherie Hutter, Charles & Victoria Infante, Jack & Lisa Jayo, Dr. F. J. & Ellamary Kane, Robert Keil, Roger & Phyllis Kesseler, Jim & Linda Kevra, Bruce & Tammy Kohnert, Marilyn Kohnert, Donald & Beverly Koster, Mary Ladd, Mark & Becky Lampman, Stephen & Judy Lange, Pete & Gloria Lamma, John & Pamela Lemoine, Sarah Lindsay, Herbert & Antoinette Lyon, Paul & Doris Lyons, Tim Mantyla, Wallace & Lindsay Mayton, Patricia & Jack McKelvey, Lee & Loretta McMaster, John & Peggy Mier, Robert & Janet Müller, Tom & Elsie Misner, Robert & Dorothy Monica, Alan & Julio Oman, Paul Pankratz, Mike & Noreen Parker, Scot & Sherri Piric, Frank & Jean Popoff, Mildred Putnarn, Michael Rapanos, Sheriff John Reder, Rehman Group, Tad & Sally Roberson, Doman Roberts, Maret & Julia Runyon, Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Bethany Schmidt, Martin & Jamie Sheridan, Thomas & Roberta Sinclair, Richard Smith, Doak & Amy Stolz, Elizabeth Swift, Sue Thumma, Cheryl & Wayne VanConnant, Isabel & Enza Viges, Jeff & Kay Wagner, Jim Williams, John & JoAnn Winchester, Scott Winchester, James Young, Win Zacharias, and many anonymous gifts.

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

Budget Summary (Unaudited)

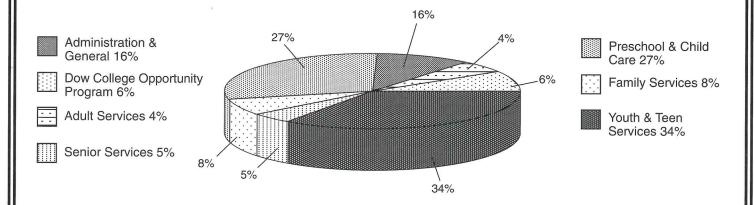
Figures in Brackets represent actual income and expenses for 2000.

2001 OPERATING INCOME TOTAL: \$1,534,848 (\$1,182,115)*



*Contributions to Building Expansion and Restricted Endowment Fund not included.

2001 EXPENSE TOTAL: \$1,193,783 (\$1,086,951)



TRENDS IN SELECTED PROGRAM AREAS 1998-2001 (UNITS OF USE)

	1998	1999	2000	2001
Preschool & Child Care: (days of care)	12,222	13,650	13,871	19,754
Family Support Services: (individuals served)	708	745	762	793
Summer Programs: (days of service)	5,568	4,949	4,507	4,760
Friday Night Teen Activities: (total attendance)	1,764	2,160	3,202	7,550

2001 ESTIMATED VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND DONATIONS

Market Value

Volunteer Hours: \$262,000 Donated Goods: <u>\$131,000</u> TOTAL WORTH: . . \$393,000

Computers for All Generations



Brittany Smith looks on as her Grandfather, Ron Smith, receives some advice from Joyce Raab, Computer Class Instructor. Joyce enjoys volunteering five sessions a week at the Center and is willing to help anyone who wants to learn more about computers. She's willing to show you where the power button hides, how to mail merge 1,500 friends, or any other skills in between. Call the Center if you would like to become involved. It's all free too!

New Feature

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Ginger Yarch began her career at WMFC as the parent of a preschooler. In 1990, when her youngest child Jessica was in preschool, Ginger was a classroom volunteer. These volunteer experiences lead Ginger to a position as a preschool aide. Her excellence in the classroom resulted in increased demand for her time and before she knew what had happened, she was working full time with preschoolers!

Prior to her appointment as Childcare Director in 1996 Ginger not only worked in the preschool, but facilitated special programs for preschoolers and their parents, as well as programs for school-aged children. For the past ten

years, Ginger has been WMFC's resident "paramedic", keeping staff members up to date on CPR and First Aid training as well as making sure first aid kits are fully stocked. In 1999, Ginger received the Strosacker Award for extraordinary contribution to a United Way organization.

Ginger is a lifelong resident of Midland County and graduated from Shepherd High School. Currently Ginger is attending MidMichigan Community College, working toward her Associates Degree In Early Childhood Education. Ginger has been married to Dennis Yarch for 23 years. They have three children—Jason, Jennifer and Jessica. Ginger is active in her church and has a wide variety of interests including crocheting, hunting, fishing and reading!

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Officers & Directors

continued from page 1

with American Express Financial Advisors. Dollard is a member of the Midland Jaycees and served as President in 1999.

Jo Winchester continues to serve as Board Secretary. She is serving her second term on the Board and has served for several years as Chairman of the Activities Committee. She is a retired Public Health Nurse and provides many years of experience in working with children and families.

Bill Schmidt replaces Ben Dollard as Treasurer. Bill spent his professional career in accounting and related financial positions with Dow, retiring from DowElanco in 1998, and returning to Midland. His financial background will be invaluable to WMFC. He currently serves on MidMichigan Health and MidMichigan Medical Center-Midland Boards. He is also a Director of Wolverine Bank. He has previously served on the Boards of The Noble Center, the Indianapolis Symphony and the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce.

New members of the Board of Directors are Tom Gilstad and Sue Thumma.

Tom Gilstad will be serving his first term on the Board. He retired in 2001 as Superintendent of the Bullock Creek schools, where he served for more than 30 years as a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent before being named Superintendent. He plans to continue to be involved with the Bullock Creek schools and community, as well as bringing his expertise to WMEC.

Sue Thumma is returning to the Board after serving several years actively participating on multiple committees as an advisor. She is an Adjunct Professor of Management Information Systems and Psychology at Northwood University. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, currently working in the mental health field. She is a Board Member and serves as Newsletter Editor for the Mid-Michigan Emmaus Community.

New Chairmen of the various committees will be announced at a later date.

Zacharias

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Collaboration, Teen and Youth Programs... which all reached new heights. The new pool provided exciting new and different programs.

As I step down from serving as your President for the past two years, I urge your continued dedication, support and commitment to WMFC. We face an ever-changing economic environment, which will require continuing innovation and creativity to reach new heights in delivering much needed services to the West Midland Community.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve. Win Zacharias

JATSOG. S.U NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION **TAQ** Midland MI Setmit #153

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER 4011 Isabella Road Shepherd, MI 48883

