

Epiphany Center Focus

Mount St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth

Fall 2010 Newsletter

Building Better Futures for Children



Epiphany Parent-Child Center photo by Dianne Estrin

As you enter the Epiphany Center you're likely to hear the sounds of children playing in the courtyard or toddlers walking hand-in-hand down the hallway. The sounds of children warm your heart and remind us of our purpose: to help them be the best they can be.

We build better futures for children by providing them with the best environment possible. Epiphany's Parent-Child Center is a licensed therapeutic childcare center for children newborn to three years of age at no cost to their parents.

"Therapeutic" in our setting means that there are small groups for more individual attention, developmental consultation for parents and staff, treatment planning for each child, regular physical and occupational therapy assessments, parenting support, and infant massage instruction.

Our children are considered "at-risk" because their families may be experiencing problems related to substance abuse, homelessness, trauma, domestic violence, poverty, cultural and social isolation.

Last year, the Parent-Child Center program had the following outcomes:

- 29 infants and toddlers received year-round childcare that allowed their mothers to attend drug treatment groups, GED preparation classes, ESL classes, vocational training, and other college classes;
- Mothers improved their competency in parenting by receiving education and support with basic infant care, child development, and health care advice;
- 49 mothers participated in a child development group facilitated by our clinical psychologist and gained insights into their parenting style and how they were parented;

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On the Path to Recovery

Epiphany House is strict,
just don't break the rules,
do your chores on time,
then there's a health walk!
The staff I care about,
"Please," just don't shout,
for everything's real simple,
as long as one focuses on oneself!
Myself, I stay neutral,
staying out of drama,
God takes care of households,
Where women belong or not!
I've got to learn to cook,
which scares me to pieces,
if only it was easy as Reese's
peanut butter cups,
I'd be all set and done!
These soul sisters are Beautiful,
Inside-n-out, treating me with
respect-n-dignity,
along with unconditional Love,
until I can learn to Love myself!

By an Epiphany House resident



Photo by Dianne Estrin

Mission Statement

The Epiphany Center promotes and strengthens family life through programs faithful to the beliefs of the Catholic Church, rooted in Judeo-Christian values and the tradition of service of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Epiphany Center provides client-centered care to a diverse population of women, children, and their families, who are most vulnerable in our society. Our purpose is to strengthen family life, and to enhance the physical, social-emotional, intellectual and spiritual growth of each person in our care.

Our vision is to create a safe environment that reflects the belief that each person is created by God, is endowed with unique gifts, and is worthy of respect. We believe that our care for individuals, enriches their present and future lives, the lives of their families and through them, the community in which we live.

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Executive Director

Sister Estela Morales, D.C.

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We recently began a study of the Agency's Mission and Values. As part of this study, we revisited some highlights of the history of the two agencies Mount St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth that merged in 1976. On August 18 we celebrated Mt. St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth's 158 years of supporting San Francisco children and families. Next year St. Elizabeth's will celebrate 90 years since the foundation of the agency on Van Ness Avenue. Our Mission today is essentially the same as the founding agencies: building better futures for children by strengthening families.

Throughout the history of both agencies there have been very generous supporters who have believed in the need for caring for children and their families. One of the first supporters was John Sullivan (founder in 1859 of the Hibernia Savings and Loan Bank) who donated the property for the first orphanage on Market and Montgomery Streets. We are honoring his memory by naming our planned giving group of donors the John Sullivan Legacy Society. We also honor Alyce Biglia who remembered the kindness given to her by the Sisters and staff at Mt. St. Joseph and wanted to help strengthen the agency's future.

We thank the Epiphany League



Photo by Dianne Estrin

Members who are the present day supporters without whom we could not provide our services. Their enthusiasm and excitement for the mission of bringing life changing hope to families gives us inspiration for our daily work.

The study of our Mission Statement is the first step to ensuring that our mission to help vulnerable children and families will carry forward into the future. We hope that quality services based on Christian principles will inspire each of you to be a supporter of us in some way: praying for us, volunteering your time, joining our staff, or by helping us financially.

Thank you for your interest in our programs and may your lives be truly blessed,

Sister Estela Morales

Mailing List

Focus is a semi-annual newsletter from Epiphany Center (Mount St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth), a ministry of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. If you would like to make an address correction, be removed, or added to our mailing list, please contact us at (415) 567-8370 ext. 4205 or slowery@msjse.org.

Inspiring hope and changing futures



Event Photography by Linda Russell: Left to right - Luncheon Chair Irene Holmes, Past Chair Jamie Gersovitz, Emcee Don MacLean

Celebrating Mothers Luncheon: Women Helping Women

The Epiphany League held its second annual Celebrating Mothers Luncheon on April 30, 2010 at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco. The event was beautifully chaired by Irene Holmes and boisterously emceed by Don MacLean.

With over 100 women in attendance, the event opened with a medley from the Songbirds, and it honored mothers and women who have touched our lives. Guests heard an inspiring testimonial from an Epiphany Center graduate whose life has been transformed:

"I look back on my relationship with my mother and know that she did the best she could.

After 20 years of not speaking to her, I contacted her and have established a new kind of relationship. I have forgiven her and understand her better. I want to spend some time with her now.

But I want more for my daughter. I want her to look back and know that even though I was a drug addict, and almost had her while incarcerated, that she can be proud of who I have become. She can trust that I will always be there for her.

Epiphany Center made all of this possible. Epiphany will always be home."

We deeply appreciate the Epiphany League, sponsors Irene

Holmes, Ann Kauffman and Janet Ostler, Marion McGovern, Claire Pesiri, and Victoria Clarke Smith, and all those who attended. Together we raised over \$33,000 for at-risk women, children, and families served by Epiphany Center programs.

Of that, \$14,630 was raised for Fund A Smile—Epiphany Center's dental program. These funds will provide much-needed dental work, improving women's self-esteem and overall health.

If you would like to donate an item valued at \$50 and higher for the silent auction at next year's luncheon, please contact Amy Miller, Director of Fund Development, at (415) 351-4055 or amiller@msjse.org.

Photos: Left to right - Brenda MacLean, Hands raised to Fund a Smile, Janet Ostler



Will There Be Programs to Help At-Risk Families in San Francisco Fifty Years from Now?

When you make a planned gift to Epiphany Center, the answer to this question is yes. Last year, we received over \$90,000 in charitable bequests, and we are humbled to be remembered by our friends who share our vision for a better world.

One of those friends is Alyce. Alyce lived at Mount St. Joseph* from ages twelve to eighteen and was appreciative of her happy childhood there. According to the executor of her estate, Alyce understood the importance of nonprofits in the community, and throughout her life she volunteered with several organizations. Just as her care had been entrusted to us, Alyce entrusted part of her estate to ours.

If you have included Epiphany Center in your estate plan, we would love to hear from you. When you step forward, others are encouraged to do the same. Please contact Amy Miller, Director of Fund Development, at (415) 351-4055 or amiller@msjse.org, and we will include you as a member of our John Sullivan Legacy Society. The legacy society is named in honor of John Sullivan, our first benefactor who generously gave the land on Market and

Montgomery Streets, so that orphaned children would have a home.

Additionally, planned gifts may be designated to Epiphany Center's endowment fund. If you would like to ensure that future families in San Francisco have an opportunity to break the multigenerational cycles of abuse, dysfunction, and poverty, the following are planned giving options:

- **Retirement Plans:** Designate Epiphany Center to receive part or all of what remains of your retirement plan after your death. Such transfers can be a very tax-efficient way of making a gift.
- **Insurance policies:** Designate Epiphany Center to receive all or part of the proceeds of a life insurance policy. Ask your insurance company for a beneficiary designation form.
- **A Charitable Bequest:** Contact your attorney to add a charitable bequest for Epiphany Center to your estate plan for a specific amount, a specific property, or for a percentage of the estate. This is most common.
- **A Charitable Remainder Trust:** Contact your financial advisor for a confidential analysis of the tax and income benefits available to you and your family through a charitable remainder trust.



In this photo: Alyce

Epiphany Center has served at-risk families for 158 years, and planned gifts allow us to continue this work for years to come. Thank you!

*Mount St. Joseph cared for orphaned children and later adolescent girls before it merged with St. Elizabeth in 1976. In 2008, we began doing business as the Epiphany Center.

Upcoming Events

Annual Benefit Party & Show

Epiphany Center's annual Benefit Party & Show will be held on March 2, 2011 at the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco. Chaired by Ann Kauffman and Marion McGovern, it is sure to be another wonderful night.

Sponsor levels are \$500, \$1,500, \$2,500, \$5,000, and \$10,000. Individual tickets are \$175. Invitation to follow in January.



EPIPHANY CENTER 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT



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About Epiphany Center

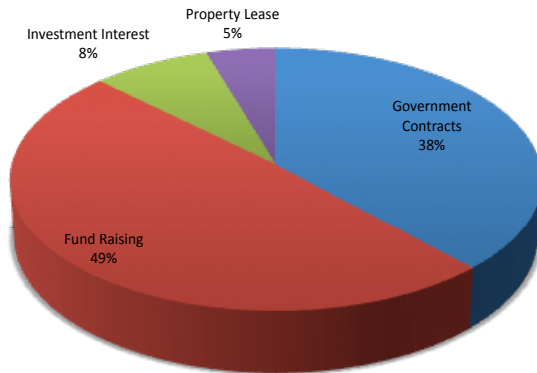
Mount St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, doing business as Epiphany Center, is a nonprofit organization that serves women, children and families. The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul began serving the children of San Francisco in 1852, caring for orphans who lost their parents to the cholera epidemic. In our 158-year history, our programs have evolved to meet the challenges and changing needs of our community.

Epiphany Center is a multi-service agency with several programs that serve at-risk families. Two Residential Recovery Programs serve adult women over the age of eighteen who need drug treatment, maybe are homeless, have low educational levels, are ethnic minorities, and some have children in their custody that are newborn to 3 years of age. The Parent-Child Center provides licensed childcare and early intervention services. The Children's Mental Health Program serves children from infants to 19 years of age. Epiphany In-Home Services staff serve families with children 0-5 years of age to prevent child removal from the custody of their parents. Under this program is a Differential Response Liaison who works with families with children of all ages that have been referred for potential abuse and neglect situations. The Epiphany Pediatric Clinic is a satellite of San Francisco General and provides well and sick pediatric services.

Epiphany Center receives funding from county and state agencies with certain portions of its funding originating with the federal government. Additionally, it receives funding from private sources and investment income.

Financial Highlights

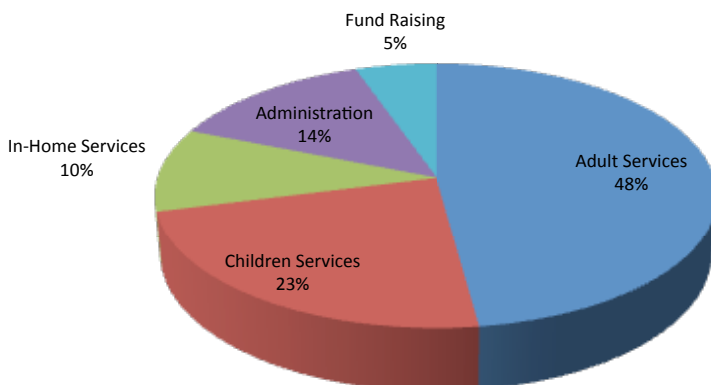
2009-2010 Revenue : \$3,061,618



- **Government Contracts: \$1,166,389**
- **Fund Raising: \$1,502,596**
- **Investment Interest: \$247,434**
- **Property Lease: \$145,200**

Note: Revenue includes a pledge of \$108,000 to be spent in the next fiscal year.

2009-2010 Expenses : \$2,870,287



- **Adult Services: \$1,373,882**
- **Children Services: \$662,428**
- **In-Home Services: \$292,908**
- **Administration: \$387,595**
- **Fund Raising: \$153,473**

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Clients Served by Epiphany Center

In-Home Services: 113 families
Residential Recovery Programs: 76 women
Parent-Child Center: 39 children
Family Treatment: 22 children
Pediatric Clinic: 64 children



Epiphany Center 2009-2010 Donors

\$50,000 and above

Estate of Alyce Biglia
Daughters of Charity Foundation

\$25,000-49,999

John Kelly Estate
Annunziata Sanguinetti Foundation
Solid Rock Foundation

\$10,000-24,999

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Ann Kauffman
Terry Keyes
Kay Kleinen
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Katie Budge
David Fleishhacker
Ceseli Foster
Don MacLean
Paul Pelosi
David Pettus
Erich Stratmann
Lizanne Suter
Christina Waldeck
The Songbirds

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Ladies of Charity
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St. Brendan's St. Vincent de Paul Society
St. Cecilia Church
St. Gabriel Church
St. Ignatius Church
St. Paul Church



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Wish List: Items You Could Donate

Would you or your group of friends like to donate to Epiphany Center? The following is a list of items that could be funded by your financial contribution or donated as an in-kind gift:

- Bus passes
- Children's clothing (all sizes)
- Children's books
- Children's educational toys
- Cookware
- Cribs
- Dishes
- DVD players
- High chairs
- Journals
- Knitting needles and yarn
- Sheets
- Strollers
- Towels
- Women's clothing (all sizes)

Donated items should be gently used. If you are considering an in-kind gift, please contact us at (415) 567-8370 ext. 4205 or slowery@msjse.org.

Volunteer Opportunities: How You Could Help

Would you or your group of friends like to volunteer at Epiphany Center? The following opportunities are available:

- Arts and crafts group for women
- Book club for women
- Carpentry
- Celebrations for families (Thanksgiving and Christmas)
- Choir for women
- Cooking lessons for women
- Exercise group for women
- Family photographs
- Organic gardening
- Tutoring for GED

If you are interested in one of the above or have other skills to share, please contact us at (415) 567-8370 ext. 4205 or slowery@msjse.org.

continued from cover

Building Better Futures for Children

- 34 children received screenings and appropriate referrals as needed to support healthy development

According to Program Director Sister Fran Kearney, Parent-Child Center staff strive to respect each individual and to promote trusting relationships among parent, child, and caregiver. This allows parents to focus on their own program, knowing each child is in a safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate environment.

One of our former clients shared: *“One of the best features at Epiphany is their childcare. Sister Fran and her staff really worked hard at helping me reunify with my children. How parents are taught to properly transition with their children is amazing to me, and I never had to worry about my son being there. In just a few months, he went from barely talking to having a much larger vocabulary.”*

Sister Fran concludes, *“It is truly a privilege to accompany our parents during such an important period in their lives—strengthening or re-establishing healthy relationships with their children.”*



Photo by Dianne Estrin

Matching Gifts: One Easy Way to Double Your Gift

On average, one in 10 gifts made to a nonprofit in the U.S. is match eligible. Does your employer match gifts? It's worth looking into. More than 16,000 companies and subsidiaries match gifts, and approximately 50 percent of the Fortune 500 have matching gift programs.

We identified the following Bay Area employers who match employee gifts, dollar for dollar, to nonprofit organizations like ours:

- Bank of America (up to \$5,000 per employee per year)
- Charles Schwab & Co. (up to \$1,000 per employee per year)
- Gap (up to \$2,000 per employee per year)
- Genentech (up to \$500 per employee per year)
- Levi Strauss & Co. (up to \$1,200 per employee per year)

Obtain a matching gift form from your Human Resources Department, and mail it with your gift to Epiphany Center. It's that easy!



Photo by Dianne Estrin

Epiphany Center
Mount St. Joseph - St. Elizabeth
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San Francisco, CA 94118

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