

Elim Christian Services Annual Report 2004-2005



Beyond Potential

Elim Timeline

February, 2000

The Board of Trustees officially changes the name of "Elim Christian School" to "Elim Christian Services" reflecting the true nature of Elim's community.

May, 2000

George Groen announces retirement as Executive Director

August, 2000

Bill Lodewyk accepts position of Executive Director of Elim Christian Services

June, 2001

Additions and Renovations to Kamp Cottage are completed, including the addition of a new "Independent Living Wing"

March, 2002

Oasis Enterprises opens workshop and warehouse space in 28,000 sq. ft. facility in neighboring Alsip, Illinois

December, 2002

Board of Trustees convenes Long Range Plan committee to support and project the Strategic Plan adopted in 1999

August, 2003

Elim opens new mailroom, and completes renovation of west side of main program building.

October, 2004

In light of strong re-commitment to campus master plan, Board of Trustees authorizes sale of Orland Park property.

February, 2005

Elim Christian Services officially adopts a "Revised and Restated Constitution"

June, 2005

Elim Christian Services is granted membership into the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

A Brief Look Back

I'd like to take this opportunity to report to you what your support has accomplished here at Elim over the last five years.

In the school, we have:

- Initiated a comprehensive education program specifically for our students with autism. Not only has this program earned state approval, it has spurred a great deal of interest in Elim's program from families outside Elim.
- Earned a TOTAL grant, one of only three places in Illinois to do so, that challenges Elim to develop self-directing opportunities for students, equipping them to contribute towards the design of their own future programming.
- Developed a comprehensive new curriculum in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act.
- Expanded our vocational program for high school students into a comprehensive vocational education program, focusing on teaching basic job skills prior to entry into the job market.
- Witnessed significant growth in the number of students served and in the number of staff serving. In 2000, we had 185 students and 165 staff members in the school. Today, we have 240+ students and over 200 employees serving those students.

In our adult services program, we have witnessed:

- The creation of the Oasis Enterprises program in Alsip, an entrepreneurial "face" for the packaging and assembly work that this program has long provided for its clients & customers.
- The success of the Choices Program, an effort to equip adults with disabilities with self-directed opportunities—an option not available to them in most settings for adults with disabilities.
- The vitality of the seniors program, wherein adults of a certain maturity level are offered community and sheltered recreational and leisure

as an alternative to continued work opportunities.

- The greenhouse program's growth from the construction of the building to the implementation of a diverse program that offers therapeutic and educational activities and production training.

In our Discovery program:

- We have added three new Discovery locations inside Christian schools in Hudsonville, Michigan; Pella, Iowa; and Circle Rock Preparatory School on the west side of Chicago.
- Children have received tremendous benefits from the use of cutting-edge technologies like P.A.C.E. and Fast ForWord.
- We have created the new Discovery Educational Center in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, where highly-trained teaching and tutoring staff offer services to children and adults struggling with a variety of learning needs.

Our residential program:

- Completed a total renovation and updating of its facilities, which we celebrated already in the year 2001.
- Continues to work closely with the school program to underscore the educational opportunities for the residents they serve.
- Is developing a program designed for children with autism, to meet the needs of those being referred to Elim, and to work closely with the ACE Program in the school.

As a community, Elim celebrates:

- Five more years of God's faithfulness to a ministry supported by broken people, run by broken people, serving broken people. By His grace, these efforts have been blessed by God to produce excellent results, all of which gives God great glory!
- The completion of a revised and restated constitution that frames not only the current reality of Elim's community, but

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En“thrall”ed by ACE

Adam Thrall has autism. Adam has never spoken, although he is able to communicate with his family. At Elim, Adam “speaks” with the help of a communication device, and last year, Adam was placed in Elim’s new ACE program, where he has since blossomed.

The Thralls have been extremely satisfied with the care and education that Adam receives in the ACE Program at Elim Christian School. Polly explains, “We couldn’t be happier with Elim. We knew on our first visit that he needed to be there. I know that the staff loves my son and knows he has a purpose in the world. He’s safe there. Safety is especially important to us because if there was a problem, he couldn’t tell us. He’s made great leaps and bounds at Elim.”

The ACE Program at Elim has even affected the Thrall’s home life, in small but noticeable ways. Polly explains, “The other day, he poured himself a cup of juice, screwed the lid back on, and walked away. He’s never done that before.”

Your support of the ACE Program at Elim is helping Adam communicate more effectively, act more independently, and interact with his environment more appropriately. Your support has not only improved life for Adam, but impacts his family as well. “We wouldn’t be the people we are if we didn’t have him. I look at people so differently now. I’m not a judgmental person any more at all. My children have become more compassionate with all children. Our extended families are different because of Adam. He’s opened their eyes to a whole new world.”



Bob’s Green Thumb Grows at Oasis, Greenhouse

When Elim opened its greenhouse (as a part of Oasis Enterprises) in September, 2002, few may have realized the life-changing potential it held for some of Elim’s clients. One such client is Bob Hillegonds.

Hillegonds, a long-term Elim client, attended Elim’s school and spent time working at Oasis Enterprises following his graduation from the school. He was one of the greenhouse’s first volunteers, later added to its payroll in November, 2003. Since that time, Bob has spent countless hours watering, planting, and caring for the flowers and plants.

In 2003 and 2004, Bob’s dedication to his work earned him Elim’s prestigious “Client of the Year” award, because of his significant progress through the program. It seems the greenhouse was a perfect fit. According to an Elim staff member, “Bob is used by God at the greenhouse and Bob knows it. He is proud of the contributions he can make and the responsibility he shows in performing his duties.”

Although he had worked in various positions since 1988, never before has he so passionately enjoyed his work. If you stop by the Elim campus on a sunny day, you’ll probably find Bob tending one of the many flower beds on campus.



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provides the opportunity to pursue a future reality that depends on God’s continued faithfulness.

- Five years of positive fiscal operations, including substantial growth in all our fundraising efforts, the addition of several hundred new donors, the creation of a new Foundation Board, and a cap on Foundation distributions that ensures long-term viability and security. It should be noted that much of this success is due to the efforts of our staff, who worked very hard to keep expenditures flat during very difficult economic times.
- Campus improvements that include enhanced campus security, safer traffic flow and parking management, comprehensive maintenance programming, and the pending completion of our campus master plan.
- Continuing accreditation of our educational programs by the North Central Association and of our adult services programs by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.
- That the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) has accepted Elim Christian Services as a member.



Brenda Makes Her Own Choices

The Elim “Choices” program was started two years ago and has brought significant benefits for Brenda Sue Jongsma and other adults at Elim. The Choices program is an innovative approach combining multi-sensory activities with a wide range of activities based on the personal choices and preferences of the adults Elim serves.

In an effort to increase the independence of our clients, a sensory room was created to allow adults an opportunity to self-advocate and make simple choices. Within the program, a variety of activities are provided, including books on tape, two computer stations, a massage chair for relaxation and improved blood circulation, bean bag and rocking chairs, a musical keyboard, books, puzzles, and a variety of other options.

Your support of the Choices program provides participating adults a low-key environment that allows them to explore and choose a variety of activities. Because of the Choices program, staff members have seen a reduction in incidents by individuals who struggle with serious behavioral issues. By offering freedom of choice in activities, individuals are learning how to make choices, express their preferences, and find an environment that reduces stress and anxiety, resulting in more appropriate social interaction. Thank you for giving them “Choices”!

Vocational Program a Special Delivery

Over the last few years, your support of Elim has equipped the school program to develop a more comprehensive vocational education program for students nearing graduation. The Elim mailroom is a part of this program, run by Bonnie Harper. Bonnie works with many Elim students and helps them develop their mailroom skills.

One student that Harper has worked with is Matt Grill. She and Matt developed a bond during the past year while Matt was helping her in the mail room. Matt enjoyed helping out so much that he volunteered in the mailroom every day last summer. Harper really appreciated the gesture. “It really touched me that Matt helped out in the summer. He knew that I’d be here by myself so he came in every day to help me. I can’t do enough for Matt. He does such a good job. Although he recognizes his limitations, he’s always willing to try and see if he can do something by himself. I’ve enjoyed the time I spent with him.”

Harper feels that her position at Elim has changed her for the better, too. “I love the atmosphere at Elim. People are so genuine, you can feel it. The kids at Elim have taught me that we take things for granted. It’s made me a better person. It means so much to know that people appreciate you.”



Matt Grill has since graduated from Elim Christian School. Please pray for Matt and his family as they seek God’s guidance for Matt’s adult life.



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ELIM FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2005

Operating Fund Details 2004-2005

Operating Fund Balance as of July 1, 2004 \$2,554,905

Revenues

Public Fees	\$11,626,370
Private Fees	\$450,743
Partnership	\$475,051
Sales	\$321,419
Gifts	\$1,696,317
Other Support	\$92,213
Elim Foundation	\$420,000
Total Revenue	\$15,082,113

Expenditures

Wages & Employees	\$12,020,162
Occupancy	\$825,986
Consumables	\$547,068
Transportation	\$413,701
Other	\$1,064,358
Total Expenditures	\$14,871,275

Transfer of Scholarship Aid Fund from Foundation (\$21,114)

Operating Fund Balance as of June 30, 2005 \$2,744,629

Operating Fund Projections 2005-2006

Operating Fund Balance as of July 1, 2005 \$2,744,629

Revenue

Public Fees	\$12,579,000
Private Fees	\$472,000
Partnership	\$612,800
Sales	\$330,600
Gifts	\$1,800,000
Other Support	\$81,500
Elim Foundation	\$459,000
Total Revenue	\$16,334,900

Wages & Employees	\$13,225,700
Occupancy	\$897,900
Consumables	\$534,500
Transportation	\$368,700
Other	\$1,105,200
Total Expenditures	\$16,132,000

Operating Fund Balance as of June 30, 2006 \$2,947,529

Foundation Performance 2005-2006

Foundation Balance as of July 1, 2004 \$8,816,285

Gift Revenues

Trusts & Estates	\$157,987
Endowments	\$3,045
Other Gift Revenue	\$1,100
Total Gift Revenue	\$162,132

Investment Revenue

Interests & Dividends	\$88,999
Realized Gains on Securities	\$65,486
Unrealized Gain on Securities	\$603,154
Total Investment Revenue	\$757,639
Total Revenues	\$919,771

Expenditures

Investment Fees	\$42,317
Promotion	\$11,271
Other	\$12,672
Distribution to Elim Operating Fund	\$420,000
Endowment Distributions	\$12,212
Total Expenditures	\$498,472

Foundation Fund Balance as of June 30, 2005 \$9,237,584