

Elim Christian Services Annual Report 2005-06



Moving Beyond ...

"Five years ago I came to Elim having had very little exposure to individuals with special needs ... little did I know this was the beginning of a profound and paradoxical journey that has literally reshaped my view of God and how He uses all of us, in spite of our disabilities, to impact His world."

— Bill Lodewyk
President, Elim Christian Services

Imagine a world where people with disabilities are cared for and included, not just because "someone has to do it," but because the reciprocal contributions they make are valued and sought after. It is this vision that drives us at Elim.

Our dream is to move beyond potential and beyond boundaries to proclaim a radical message the entire world needs to hear.

What is it that sets Elim apart? Elim is a place of joy and hope. At Elim, children and adults with developmental disabilities thrive because they are challenged to go beyond their human potential to achieve their God-given potential, and they live up to that challenge, that hope, in extraordinary ways.

At Elim, we learn what unconditional love is; we learn what is really important in life; we learn what real challenges are; we learn what true acceptance looks like. We know that each day, experiences can overwhelm the senses, so we have learned how to give sensory breaks. We know that sometimes you just need to go outside and be free, so we have four playgrounds, a garden, and a greenhouse to explore. We know how frustrating it can be when you do not have the ability to communicate, so we have learned to adapt assistive technology to how each person needs it.

We know that God does not make mistakes; He chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong (1 Corinthians 1:27-29). At Elim, everyone involved with the care of a person with a developmental disability comes to understand the paradoxical trilogy:

We bless them.
They bless us.
Together, we honor God.

At Elim, we are called to spread God's message of hope to a world where hope is often lost. Elim has the unique opportunity to share its expertise with those who want to observe, learn, and spread this message of hope through their work as special education professionals not only here at Elim, but also throughout the United States and, Lord willing, beyond.

July 2005

Elim opens its first Discovery Educational Center, an entrepreneurial venture utilizing school-based Discovery programs.

September 2005

The Elim Women's Service League hosts 10th Annual Dutch Festival, which raises more than \$140,000.

Adult Services

Adults GAIN Experience

Adults in Elim's Adult Services program are busy helping others on the other side of the world, right from Elim's workshop. More than 80 individuals from Elim currently help assemble packages for Global Aide Network (GAIN) USA, a ministry of Campus Crusade. Local church members have also answered the call to work alongside them in order to double the impact.

The seed for the project was planted when Ken Lautenbach, a member of a special Elim task force and volunteer with GAIN USA, heard about GAIN's care package program. In this program, care packages are assembled by volunteers, then distributed throughout the world to provide for the needs of children.

Elim kicked off this new program in June, filling its first round of care packages with school supplies for needy children. On June 21, GAIN's Africa region director visited Elim to speak to the individuals and staff about the impact that these care packages make worldwide.

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Elim's adults and church volunteers collaborate to bless others worldwide.

ts of the 2005-06 Fiscal Year

November 2005

The Board of Trustees approves campus master plan and endorses vision for Elim's future.

March 2006

Elim's school program receives full re-accreditation from the North Central Association.

May 2006

Elim breaks ground on new Adult Services building as part of campus master plan. Project to be completed in May 2007.

Elim Breaks Ground for New Adult Services Facility

Elim Christian Services broke ground for its new state-of-the-art Adult Services building on May 18. More than 100 friends of Elim, including clients from the Adult Services program, government officials, and supporters of the ministry, attended the festivities.

The new building will provide benefits such as an exercise room, game room, senior's lounge area, outdoor picnic area, accessible restrooms, more versatile classrooms, as well as more efficient warehouse space.

Dr. Bill Lodewyk believes the new facilities are a tangible symbol of Elim's future vision. He explains, "The new Elim will be a powerful vehicle for equipping people to serve those with developmental disabilities. At Elim, we know that children and adults with developmental disabilities are valuable to God and offer a great deal to those around them. By expanding the physical capacity of the current campus, Elim will be an even more effective catalyst for influencing a world beyond our geographic boundaries."

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Brad Johnson, Elim's Director of Adult Services, believes the program is beneficial for everyone involved. He said, "The partnership with GAiN and Elim exposes both ministries to a broader community. The adults gain satisfaction in knowing their efforts are having a global impact and blessing children who are in great need. At the same time, Elim and GAiN enjoy greater exposure and commitment."

A letter has been sent to local churches asking for volunteers to help with the project. If you, your church, or anyone you know is interested in volunteering with this project, please contact Tehrifah Brown at (708) 389-0555.



Breaking ground for Elim's new Adult Services building.

2006 Snapshot

Adults Served in Elim's Adult Services	196
Adults Served in Supportive Employment	30
Adults In Choices Program	12
Adults in Seniors Program	20
Adults Utilizing Communication Devices	27

2006 Adult Services Highlight

The Elim greenhouse and Adult Services workshop celebrated their highest sales year ever!

Discovery Network Services

Making a Difference, One Family at a Time

“I’d definitely recommend the Discovery program to another family. I only wish that my school had it ten years ago when my daughter started school,” said Sue, the mother of a third-grade boy and a seventh-grade girl, both of whom participate in the Discovery program.

Sue’s story isn’t unusual. It’s a situation echoed in many homes and schools around the country. Her daughter struggled academically for years. There was no diagnosable “problem”—her daughter just needed a little extra help with her studies. She’d go to school all day and then come home, where Sue would spend hours each night reviewing and re-explaining all that her class had learned that day.

Sue’s son had a different situation. He struggled with reading, a problem attributed to attention issues; he is also reversal-oriented, which makes him tend to write and read backward. Because his classroom’s curriculum was not strongly phonics based, he was quickly falling behind his classmates. Both found the help they needed in their school’s Discovery program.

Sue explains, “It’s made a huge difference for our family. My son is reading much better now, largely due to his daily help in the program. Every day someone helps him work on reading and writing, especially phonics awareness and sounding out words. It’s been really beneficial for him. My daughter receives a lot of help there, too. Someone helps her study for tests, work on projects, and complete homework assignments. She’s always been a hard worker, but this helps her accomplish more. We’ve seen her confidence jump. It’s also taken a huge amount of stress off my husband and me.”

2006 Snapshot

Students Involved in Discovery programs
more than 400 nationwide

Number of Discovery Programs
12 programs in nine schools, six national programs

Number of Students Enrolled in Summer program at
Discovery Educational Center 89

Newest Discovery Program Location
Sheboygan Christian High School

Feedback From a *Fast ForWord* Participant’s Mother

Fast ForWord is a cognitive and language skills development program utilized throughout Elim’s Discovery Network programs. The following is a short note from one family we helped in Michigan.

I don’t know if you will remember me, but three years ago (during the summer between third and fourth grade), my son Juan Carlos Sanchez completed the first Fast ForWord program. His reading improved by two grade levels based on Stanford Standardized Testing.

He, himself, wants to try the next level in Fast ForWord. He is completing the sixth grade this year. He has not had an adjusted curriculum since the completion of third grade. Since the summer between third and fourth grade he has worked with Earobic program off and on and a Lexia thinking computerized product.

*Faith Vrugink
Battle Creek, MI*

Elim Christian School

Hope Comes to Elim

Dan Postma, father of four-year-old Hope, can only begin to tell you the changes he’s seen in his daughter throughout her first year at Elim. He said, “Hope is now sitting up on her own and showing signs of crawling. She’ll even feed herself on some occasions. A lot of the doctors initially felt that Hope wouldn’t live to be three years old. Now, they say she’ll walk one day. A lot of that credit goes to Elim.”

Hope was born with tuberous sclerosis complex. At birth, doctors discovered one large and twenty small tumors in her heart. At just two weeks old, she suffered a mild heart attack, and at just ten months old, she began having seizures. Scans showed more tumors in her brain than could even be counted.

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2006 Snapshot

Students Enrolled at Elim Christian School	240
Students in Vocational Education Program	48
Students in ACE Program	25
Percentage of Students Using Communication Devices	37

2006 School Highlights

Following a makeover, Elim's vocational education program is proving to be more successful than ever in helping students prepare for life after Elim Christian School.

For the 2006-2007 school year, the ACE (Autism Comprehensive Education) program will expand to accommodate even more students. Also, a high school satellite classroom will be added to better meet the needs of high school students with autism spectrum disorder.

Eight Elim Christian School alumni and some Elim chaperones traveled to the Christ Outreach Camp for the Blind in Kentucky where they helped remodel a barn and build a rock-climbing wall. These individuals used the gifts God gave them to serve others and gained confidence and self-esteem in the process.

Former Elim Student Plans for the Future



Beth always provides service with a smile.

Beth Slagter has been working at the McDonald's in Palos Heights since February 4, 2002. As a food prep team member, she is responsible for assembling salads and parfaits, cooking french fries, and preparing pies and cookies. Additional duties include heading up all stock for lunch as well as keeping the lobby looking clean and presentable.

A graduate of Elim Christian School, Beth previously worked at Bath & Body Works and Super Kmart. Her supervisors at McDonald's, however, are certainly glad that she found her way through their door. Beth's supervisor, Lynn, said: "Beth's a hard worker. She is always very pleasant to the other employees and staff members. She gets a lot of compliments on her work."

Beth enjoys her job. She loves the people she works with and the flexibility the job provides. She also enjoys another perk—eating the delicious food McDonald's has to offer. She's also learned valuable skills during her time there. She explains, "At McDonald's, I've learned to clean very well. I also learned a lot about teamwork—getting along with people and sometimes even working with people who aren't very nice. At our McDonald's, we always have a lot of people who graduate to new positions so I'm always meeting new people. It's a lot of fun."

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Hope's condition cannot be improved with surgery and can only be treated with costly medication. Unfortunately, the costs of medication and tuition for all four of the Postmas' daughters can quickly eat up the income of the family. That's why they have been so thankful for Elim's Scholarship Fund, a fund that allows Hope to attend Elim at a discounted rate because of their church affiliation.

Dan explains, "With three other kids and rising costs of living, it's getting harder to make tuition payments. But, we know that we can't lose Elim. The difference in Hope since she started there has been so dramatic. She's much more active and alert. She recognizes a lot of the kids in her classroom. She also now recognizes us and her sisters, especially her baby sister. The other day, she leaned over and kissed her baby sister on the head. She couldn't do that before."

Although the Postmas are thankful for the quality education and physical therapy that Hope receives at Elim, they still feel that Elim's nature as a Christian ministry is the most important. Dan said, "Having Christians teaching her and knowing that the staff is held to a higher standard is very important to us. It's very comforting to know that she's in good hands, Christian hands, that love and care about her."



The Postma family celebrates Hope's progress at Elim.

Residential Program

Jeremy and His Mom Find Help at Elim

As a single mom, Nancy Geary knew that she could use a little help. Her son, Jeremy, was born three months premature with Down Syndrome and serious heart and lung problems. Nancy struggled with poor health, caring for a high-needs child, as well as providing for their financial needs. When Jeremy was seven years old, Nancy found a government program that provided some in-home assistance, but the help provided was simply not enough.

In September 2002, Jeremy started attending classes at Elim. The following month, Jeremy moved into Kamp Cottage, Elim's children's residence. Jeremy quickly became involved, meeting new people and taking advantage of the opportunities available. Nancy explains, "Elim provides Jeremy with the structure that he needs to function. Elim provides him with an opportunity to form friendships with his peers. It also gives him a multitude of opportunities to be out and active in the community."

Now 11 years old, Jeremy is very involved at Elim. He plays on the junior basketball team, sings in the choir, and even recently won a gold medal on Elim's swim team. Outside of Elim, he also enjoys playing Tomahawks Hockey.

Since Jeremy is now educated based on his individual needs, he's made huge strides academically. He's quickly learning reading and math and exceeding the goals set for him.

Probably the most important aspect of Jeremy's growth is in terms of his Christian faith. Because of his behavioral challenges, Jeremy had not been able to attend church since he was a young child. Now, he is taught about Jesus and the Bible in a way he can understand. Nancy is thrilled that he learns about God at school, allowing her the opportunity to reinforce the teachings at home. With the positive changes in his behavior, she's also happy that she is now able to take him to church with her again.



So often seen with a smile on his face, Jeremy is thriving at Elim thanks to the support he receives within the children's residential program.

Jeremy's growing faith was especially evident this fall following the death of his friend and fellow Kamp Cottage resident, Katie Quinn. All of the children living in Kamp Cottage gathered together with a grief counselor present so a staff member could break the sad news. After Jeremy and the group said a prayer, he went into his room. He got his Bible and then brought it to a staff member. He had turned to the story that he had heard several months earlier—that of the paralyzed man who was lowered through the roof to Jesus. Jeremy asked if they could lower Katie through the roof so God could heal her. What amazing faith!

2006 Snapshot

Children Enrolled in Elim's Residential Program 37

2006 Residential Program Highlights

A behavior intervention specialist was added to Elim's Residential program staff. This staff member provides support for direct care staff in the management of residents with challenging behaviors, serves as a liaison between school and residential staff, and works with parents to provide support and programming ideas for students when home.

Residential staff continues extensive training for providing care for students with autism. ACE and residential staff have been working closely together to ensure continuity of programming for students with autism.

For the second consecutive year, Kamp Cottage residents and staff have enjoyed a week of fun activities at a summer day camp held on the grounds of Camp Manitoqua.

Elim Financial Statement 2006

Operating Fund Details, 2005-2006

Unrestricted Net Assets as of July 1, 2005 488,927

Revenues

Public Fees	12,462,684
Private Fees	525,358
Partnership	491,909
Sales	386,345
Gifts	1,796,647
Other Support	93,739
Elim Foundation	459,000
Total Revenue	16,215,682

Expenditures

Wages & Employees	13,083,836
Occupancy	930,184
Consumables	463,583
Transportation	409,941
Other	1,234,660
Total Expenditures	16,122,204

Result from Operations **93,478**

Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2006 582,405

Operating Fund Projections, 2006-2007

Revenues

Public Fees	13,073,200
Private Fees	511,800
Partnership	609,100
Sales	400,600
Gifts	2,000,000
Other Support	219,500
Elim Foundation	522,000
Total Revenue	17,336,200

Expenditures

Wages & Employees	14,191,600
Occupancy	1,006,600
Consumables	506,700
Transportation	360,000
Other	1,271,300

Total Expenditures **17,336,200**

Foundation Performance, 2005-2006

Foundation Balance as of July 1, 2005 9,232,397

Gift Revenues

Trusts & Estates	674,100
Endowments	2,150
Other Gift Revenue	20
Total Gift Revenue	676,270

Investment Revenue

Interests & Dividends	119,411
Realized Gains on Securities	15,038
Unrealized Gain on Securities	969,854
Total Investment Revenue	1,104,303

Total Revenues **1,780,573**

Expenditures

Investment Fees	39,397
Promotion	8,628
Other	26,432
Distribution to Elim Operating Fund	459,000
Endowment Distributions	23,791
Total Expenditures	557,248

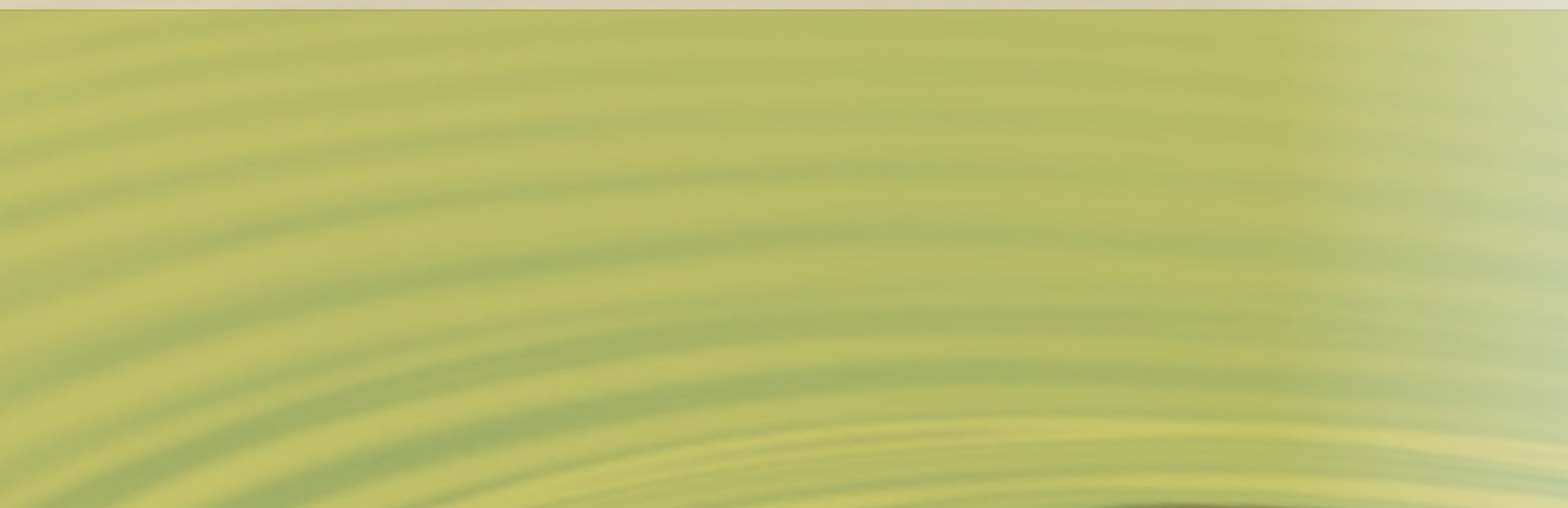
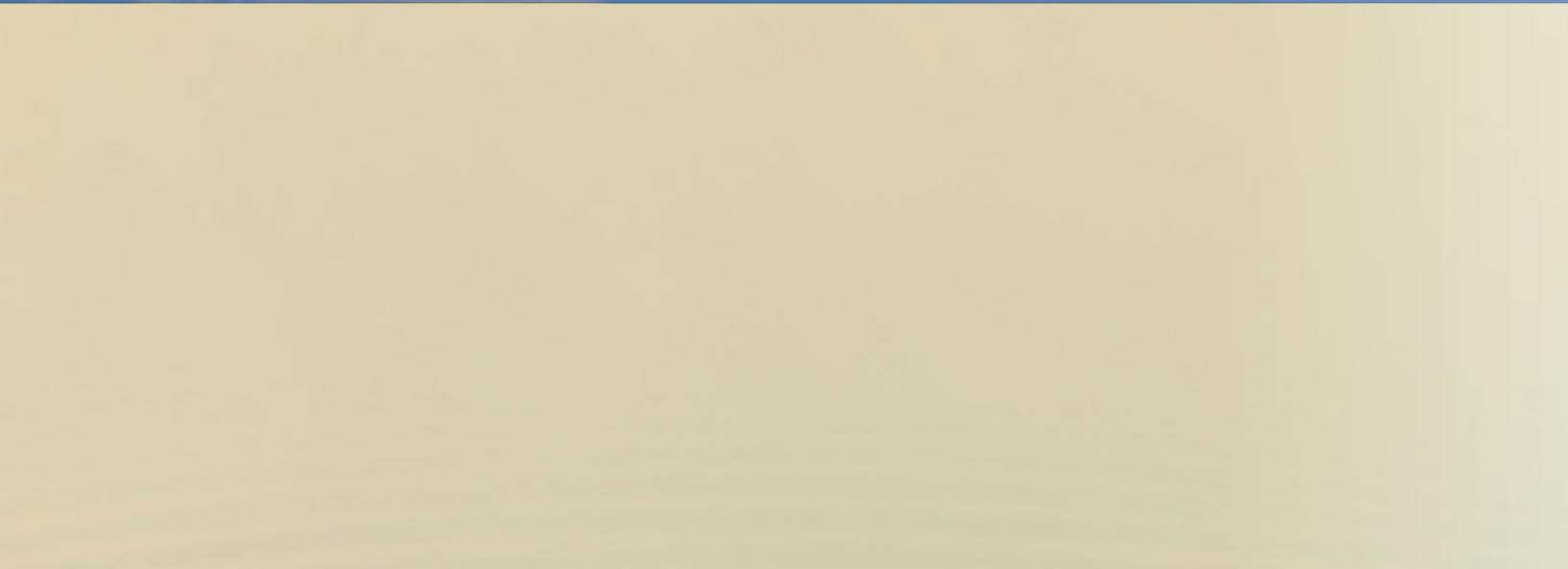
Foundation Fund Balance as of June 30, 2006 **10,455,722**

Operating Expenses by Program, 2005-2006

School	7,889,709
Adult Services	3,769,942
Residential Services	1,754,368
Discovery Network	808,577
Management & General Office	1,274,968
Advancement	624,640
Total	16,122,204

Operating Expense Projections by Program, 2006-2007

School	8,480,200
Adult Services	3,802,000
Residential Services	1,918,000
Discovery Network	883,600
Management & General Office	1,573,200
Advancement	679,200
Total	17,336,200



ELIM
christian services

Moving Beyond...

13020 S. Central Ave. • Palos Heights, IL 60463
708 389 0555 • fax 708 389 0671 • www.elimcs.org • info@elimcs.org