



We bless them.
TOGETHER, WE HONOR GOD.
They bless us.

Your Impact Elim Christian Services
Report
2006-2007

Moving Beyond ...

What an honor it is to give testimony to you, our faithful partners in God's work at Elim. God has shown grace and wonderful faithfulness to Elim's ministry in the past year. Elim is a living testimony of God's advancing kingdom and you continue to be an important partner in not only shaping, but proclaiming that testimony.

Throughout the past year Elim has taken great strides in establishing itself as a resource center of best practices. Within our four main program areas—school, residential, adult services, and ministry outreach—lives continue to be changed in a record number of families. And that programing expertise is now having a global impact.

While the past year has proved to be fiscally challenging, Elim's children and adults continue to be blessed by the nearly 400 employees at Elim who serve them each day. Our campus has undergone necessary but dramatic improvements – all in an effort to bless and protect those we serve.

This coming year, by God's grace, Elim will celebrate its 60th anniversary. I give honor to God for the testimony of what God's grace has allowed Elim to accomplish over the past sixty years. I can't help but think about how Elim has grown from those early days in the church basement in Englewood to this campus and these services some sixty years later. God is so faithful! I trust that this update will not only encourage you, but also motivate you to celebrate sixty years of God's faithfulness with us.

— Bill Lodewyk
President, Elim Christian Services

September 2006

- Josely Chavarria of Nicaragua travels to Elim for training.
- Elim Faithful begins with 10 monthly supporters.

October 2006

- Geeta Mondol visits Elim's ACE program to gain insight as she prepares to open a school for autism in India.

Persistence Leads to Success for ACE Student

When students in Elim's ACE program started volunteering at Trinity Christian College's maintenance department, Elim staff realized that some students would be able to play a more active role in the clean-up projects than others.

Because of his disability, Nick Luebke was one individual who usually stood on the sidelines while some of his classmates picked up trash in the parking lot and baseball fields and washed the windows at Trinity's dormitories.

Linda Jones, Nick's aide, always wanted Nick to become more involved, and one day her persistence paid off. Although he normally didn't participate in the project, Linda showed Nick how to perform the tasks. To her surprise, Nick happily complied with the instructions, staying with the group and pushing a trash can.

Linda was so excited that she called her co-workers over to witness Nick's accomplishment. She explains, "It was so meaningful to me to watch Nick helping with a smile on his face. I was so happy that I cried!"

Elim Teamwork Changes Life

The exemplary teamwork and dedication of Elim staff members Patti Gentile, Sarah Boys, and Carla Worley led to a major breakthrough in the life of one Elim student. Because of their efforts, 14-year-old Kara Marquardt is able to feed herself for the first time ever!

Now, with the aide of a special rubber-coated spoon discovered by Gentile, and a non-skid bowl, Kara can be propped up at mealtime, allowing her to maneuver food into her mouth by herself.

Gentile explains, "Although it takes her a while to feed herself, it's worth it when you see how good she feels afterward. It has shown her that there are a lot of things she's able to do on her own. I'm so proud of her for not giving up." Worley adds, "Feeding herself really boosts her self-esteem. She feels so good when she's able to do it herself."



Patti Gentile (left) worked with occupational therapist Carla Worley (right) and teacher Sarah Boys (top) to give Kara Marquardt another degree of independence.

Ministry Operations Highlights

December 2006

- Elim adult volunteers wrap teddy bears that will later be distributed through Global Aid Network.

May 2007

- Over 150 people celebrate the opening of the new Adult Services Life Skills Center.

June 2007

- The HOPE Project (see next page) concept is born
- Elim Faithful monthly supporters up to 65.

James Finds Pride in his Work



James Decker is one adult who will benefit from the new Orland Park facilities (read about the new facilities on page 4). An active member of Elim's Adult Services program, James celebrates his 15th anniversary at Elim this year. In addition to spending his days at Elim's workshop (currently in Alsip, Illinois), he also takes advantage of educational opportunities like fitness and cooking classes as well as enthusiastically participating in field trips and community outings.

Liz Drogos, James' case manager, agrees that James has grown during his time at Elim. "James has always been very outgoing, but his confidence has increased during his time at Elim. He has mastered most of the jobs in the workshop and greatly benefits from Elim socially. He's able to keep in contact with friends. We've seen him adjust to following a schedule and learn responsibility. He has also begun to take pride in his actual production rate and has been doing his best to increase it."

When James receives his paycheck for his efforts at Elim's workshop, he has no trouble figuring out how to spend it. An avid shopper, James loves purchasing his own clothes and often uses his paycheck to purchase video games and movies. Marion, James' mom, believes his employment in Elim's programs has resulted in greater benefits for her son. "Although James may never work in the community, Elim's workshop has provided him with meaningful work and taught him several different skills. It's a big, big thing for him. It's a big thing for our family, too."

What's All This Talk About Best Practices?

Kim Vanwhite serves as Elim's Vice President of Ministry Operations, where one of her responsibilities is to position Elim as a resource center of best practices. Since the term "center of best practices" is one that many are not familiar with, she explains the term in more detail. Below is an excerpt taken from a recent staff newsletter.

You may have read in past Elim publications that Elim is working to serve as a center for best practices, but you may be unclear about the meaning of that term or why it's so important that Elim step into this role.

'Best practices' is basically a management idea that has been widely applied in many areas, including business, industry, social services, and education. It can be defined as the most efficient and effective way of accomplishing a task, based on repeatable procedures that have proven themselves over time for large numbers of people.

In a Christian organization like ours, using best practices becomes a way to obey God's call to give Him our very best (love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength) by giving our very best to the people we work with and for (love your neighbor as yourself). Each effort given by each person, in every position, is of equal importance and value. 'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.' (1 Corinthians 12:12)

The idea of Elim being (and becoming) a center for best practices is not meant to be a statement that we are the best. Rather, it is a statement of our continual, ongoing commitment to give our best every day. We believe God is calling us to share the knowledge Elim has accumulated in its almost-sixty year history with others to help even more individuals worldwide reach their full potential."

Ministry Outreach

New Partnership Blesses Many Worldwide

Last year, Elim worked in cooperation with Global Aid Network (GAIN) and Children's Hunger Fund (CHF) to assemble school supply kits and vegetable seed packs that were distributed to children and families in need globally. The response from our adults and the volunteers working alongside during the assembly was overwhelming! Elim's adults received such satisfaction knowing their work was blessing people in need. Rather than being served, they were serving others and experiencing the blessings that come from a giving heart. Our volunteers felt a similar joy and expressed their desire to be included in future events so they could invite others. This trial assembly program proved to be a resounding success!

From those experiences, the research we have done since has revealed that the need for kits of all kinds – school supplies, hygiene kits, seed packs, medical supplies, food and countless other basic necessities – is mind-boggling! In this new fiscal year, we will actively pursue agencies that need our assembly services.

In addition, we will be seeking to build stronger church relationships by engaging volunteers to share in this work experience with our adults. We see this as an incredible opportunity to:

- 1) provide meaningful work for our adult clients,
- 2) create a business model that financially supports Elim's program of best practices for our adults,
- 3) supply those in critical need nationally and internationally with life's basic necessities, and
- 4) provide opportunities for people to share their passions and offer their time, talent, and treasure to serve developmentally disabled adults and children and families in their greatest time of need.

Everyone can play an instrumental role in this effort, so we encourage all of you reading this to consider how God may want you personally to be involved in the HOPE (Hands Of Partnership at Elim) Project.

*-Bob Stine
Vice President of Ministry Outreach*

Greater Vocational Opportunities for Elim Adults

With help from a generous friend of the ministry, Elim's Adult Services recently secured a new vocational facility in Orland Park. Because of its prime location, the building is ideal for community integration and employment opportunities for the adults Elim serves.

Elim's staff is hopeful that the new facility will allow more efficient workflow, safer conditions, and overall greater opportunities for Elim's adult clients to reach their full God-given potential.

Elim's Knowledge Stretches to India

Geeta Mondol founded Ashish School (which means "a blessing") in her native New Delhi, India, this year after meeting with Elim staff members, touring Elim's facilities, and picking up important resources that will aid her in her work. Although some modifications will need to be made to adjust to the economic climate of her target area, Elim is serving as the planning model for the Indian school.



Geeta Mondol and family

Currently, the school serves ten students with developmental disabilities, and arrangements are being made to expand enrollment. Since special education services are so limited in India, Ashish serves a huge need while providing an opportunity to introduce new skills to the staff, families, and students with special needs served by the school.

Geeta feels tremendously blessed by her partnership with Elim Christian Services. She said, "I benefited a lot from my visit to Elim. I was physically able to see how a school setting needs to be for differently-abled children. I was able to see that children and adults bless each other when each treats the other with dignity and respect. I was able to sense His presence in the school. I have realized that a positive attitude and a sense of humor go a long way. There is so much more!"

Elim's Adults Serve Those In Need



Darrell Bingham, Ray De Groot, and Michael Stuart were excited to help out those less fortunate.

On several occasions throughout the past year, Elim's adult clients have joined with volunteers from the local community to help those in need. While they completed a valuable service for individuals in need, they gained valuable esteem through the project and served as an inspiration for those around them.

In May, adults spent a day sorting clothes at the Children's Hunger Fund warehouse. The project benefited the Global Aid Network (GAiN). Following the completion of the sorting, the clothes were shipped to those in need, with the children's clothing being shipped through Kids in Crisis Worldwide to the Little

Elim Shares Expertise in Latin America

Josely Chavarria visited Elim's campus in October of 2007 to observe Elim's staff at work. Josely was working with Michelle Adams to start a school for children with special needs in Nicaragua, where only 12 facilities exist to help individuals with special needs.

While these facilities claim to provide education for their students, their programs are seriously lacking. Josely said, "There's really no special education in Nicaragua. The facilities that exist really only provide babysitting for their students. Most students with special needs never go to school—they are just kept in their homes. Because they can't receive an education, they never realize their potential."

On October 4, 2006, classes began at Tesoros De Dios (God's Treasures) school. Michelle is now serving as director, and the staff is already hard at work meeting the special needs of 60 children with disabilities from Managua and the surrounding area.

Moving Beyond ...

"We recognize that something very special has happened at Elim—something God has given to us, something God has given to our community—and we believe we must share it. We cannot simply keep it to ourselves. We need to share it with other places in our nation, and other places in our world."

- Dr. Joel Nederhood, area pastor and Elim board member

Lambs organization for orphaned children in the Ukraine. The adult clothing was distributed to low income families throughout Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

In December, Elim's adults also spent time wrapping teddy bears for the Children's Hunger Fund. The bears were to be given to children from needy families in the Chicagoland area who otherwise would not have received a Christmas present.

Brad Johnson, Elim's Director of Adult Services, strongly believes in the benefits of learning through serving others. He explains, "In my years of service in the field of developmental disabilities, I have found one of the greatest desires of adults with developmental disabilities is to have a sense of purpose. Providing our adults the opportunity to minister to the poor and disadvantaged in third world countries gives them a sense of satisfaction and joy knowing that their labors are directly benefiting others with great need. It is obvious by the smiles on their faces, their laughter, and the encouragement they give to one another about the impact their work will have in the lives of others, that volunteering at the Children's Hunger Fund gives them a deep feeling of worth."

Discovery Educational Center Fills Need

The Discovery Educational Center, located in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, saw increased demand this summer and is now self-sustaining. This pilot program of Elim's Discovery Network Services offers remediate support for all academic subjects and some special education assistance. After meeting such success, this program will be replicated in other areas of need in the United States.

Josely, Michelle, and others involved with Tesoros de Dios have a goal to help others in Latin American countries. To accomplish this, Josely translated Elim's curriculum so it could be shared with another school in Honduras. She explains, "We want to learn as much as we can from Elim and take the information back to Nicaragua, Honduras, and other Latin American countries. We want to help and bless these kids who have been previously unseen in Latin American countries."

Ministry Resources

Robert Marsh was recently promoted to the position of Vice President of Ministry Resources after three years leading the advancement office at Elim. In this new position, he oversees Elim's human and financial resources. Following are his comments on the 2007 financial year.

People with developmental disabilities are typically unable to compete effectively in our country's economic system, where our culture tends to value the attractive, the athletic, and the rich and famous. More often than not, people with disabilities need significant support to live a life that is full and satisfying.

I hope you are blessed in knowing that your support provides meaningful work opportunities for our adults, an outstanding education for our students, a safe and nurturing environment in our children's residential program, and educational supports in Christian schools.

This past year has been challenging for Elim financially. The financial statement for the fiscal year that ended July 30, 2007 reports an operating deficit of \$784,031. This deficit is the result of decreased public revenue and less gift revenue than projected, and an increased cost in several areas of our programs. In spite of this deficit, Elim remains on solid financial footing because of surplus budgets in five of the last six years. We are taking the appropriate steps to balance our budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The new Hope Project mentioned in Bob Stine's report should provide much needed revenue in our Adult Services program, which experiences the greatest funding need each year.

By God's grace, we have reached over 95% of our goal to raise the \$16 million needed to complete the Moving Beyond Capital Campaign. These funds have provided the new Life Skills Center, the Thrall Family Space for ACE, an improved campus interior, and much needed renovations to the main school building, which are on the way. If you haven't been to Elim's campus lately, you will be amazed at the changes that have taken place. You will also be blessed by interacting with the wonderful people that we serve. For all of us at Elim, thank you for your partnership – we need it!

Building on Elim's Excellence

Moving Beyond... In order to continue building on Elim's history of excellent care, training, and education for individuals with developmental disabilities, Elim's campus has undergone a series of dramatic changes to improve its functionality and ensure the safety of its inhabitants.

As part of the building project, Elim's campus interior was redesigned and renovated to create safe walking and play environments. All traffic and parking lots were relocated to the outside perimeter, leaving the interior campus environment a safe and beautiful oasis for the individuals served at Elim.

Changes are also happening within the existing building's walls. Since Elim's ACE program's introduction in 2004, demand has necessitated a 150% increase in the number of students Elim serves through the program. As the epidemic of autism continues to grow, Elim anticipates the growing need for services, training, and space to accommodate these special individuals.

The new ACE program facilities opened its doors on September 4, 2007. The new space accommodates primary, intermediate, and high school students and allows for greater life skills and vocational training. It also allows for increased speech and sensory opportunities in an effort to meet the very specialized needs of its students with autism and to share best practices in the field of autism education.

Ministry Operations

To God Be The Glory!

Dedication services were held for Elim's new Life Skills Center on May 17. Two hundred members of Elim's extended family joined together to give thanks to God for this great blessing for Elim's Adult Services community.

Dianne Kariotis of the Illinois Department of Human Services had the following to say after her tour of the facility: "The new Life Skills Center is a statement to the world that Elim believes in and cares for adults with developmental disabilities. I am overwhelmed by the design and beauty of the facility."

While the building is indeed beautiful, far more important is the work that the cutting-edge facility will allow. The building allows Elim to increase the number of adults they serve, and it also was designed for greater efficiency and safety for Elim's adult clients.

2007 Snapshot

Students at Elim Christian School (2007-2008)	250
Children Enrolled in Residential Program	28
Students in Vocational Education Program	46
Students in ACE Program	30
Adults Served in Elim's Adult Services	201
Adults Served in Supported Employment	40
Adults in Seniors Program	21
Adults Utilizing Communication Devices	22

Elim Ministry Resources Statement 2007

Operating Fund Details, 2006-2007

Unrestricted Net Assets as of July 1, 2006	821,383
Revenues	
Public Fees	12,817,084
Private Fees	492,719
Partnership	652,160
Sales	312,571
Gifts	1,875,920
Other Support	203,366
Elim Foundation	522,000
Total Revenue	16,875,820
Expenditures	
Wages & Employees	14,416,632
Occupancy	1,085,845
Consumables	469,196
Transportation	345,979
Other	1,342,199
Total Expenditures	17,659,851
Result from Operations	(784,031)
Fixed Asset Activity	131,479
Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2007	168,831

Operating Fund Projections, 2007-2008

Unrestricted Net Assets as of July 1, 2007	168,831
Revenues	
Public Fees	14,111,300
Private Fees	372,900
Partnership	654,300
Sales	350,600
Gifts	2,000,000
Other Support	231,000
Elim Foundation	612,000
Total Revenue	18,332,100
Expenditures	
Wages & Employees	15,022,700
Occupancy	1,142,100
Consumables	466,300
Transportation	381,100
Other	1,319,900
Total Expenditures	18,332,100
Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2008	168,831

Foundation Performance, 2006-2007

Foundation Balance as of July 1, 2006	10,454,194
Gift Revenues	
Trusts & Estates	607,138
Endowments	3,500
Other Gift Revenue	1,708
Total Gift Revenue	612,346
Investment Revenue	
Interests & Dividends	49,896
Realized Gains on Securities	382,357
Unrealized Gain on Securities	1,355,521
Total Investment Revenue	1,787,774
Total Revenues	2,400,120
Expenditures	
Investment Fees	45,485
Promotion	11,977
Other	7,558
Distribution to Elim Operating Fund	522,000
Endowment Distributions	11,748
Total Expenditures	598,768
Foundation Fund Balance as of June 30, 2007	12,255,546

Operating Expenses by Program, 2006-2007

School	8,835,559
Adult Services	3,842,668
Residential Services	1,830,242
Discovery Network	882,694
Management & General Office	1,543,085
Advancement	725,603
Total	17,659,851

Operating Expense Projections by Program, 2007-2008

School	9,504,100
Adult Services	3,505,800
Residential Services	1,803,700
Discovery Network	831,000
Management & General Office	1,996,400
Advancement	691,100
Total	18,332,100

Moving Beyond...



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