



equipping people
WITH DISABILITIES
to change the world



Your Impact Report
2007-2008

Elim's Vision of Best Practices

Dear treasured partners,

Elim's vision of being a resource center of best practices is as much a journey as it is a destination. Every day represents another milestone in our commitment to being the very best we can be, and leveraging that commitment to meet the world's need.



Elim President Bill Lodewyk distributed HOPE packs to children in Peru.

A recent and profound expression of Elim's vision has been in the Adult Services program with the assembly and distribution of HOPE Packs. The HOPE Packs program is built upon the foundation that all of us, in spite of our disabilities, are created with a need to be Kingdom contributors – to make a difference by meeting needs in the name of Jesus. HOPE Packs provide our adults with the opportunity to assemble school supplies which are then distributed through partner Christian ministries to be placed in the hands of children living in poverty.

Recently I had the opportunity to be a part of a distribution effort coordinated by our ministry partner, Food for the Hungry, in the country of Peru. In going to Peru, I prayed for affirmation that Elim's vision was not only being realized, but that it could be enhanced by having some of our adults with disabilities actually distribute the Hope Packs they had assembled and personally hand them out to children in need. I believe that such an experience would not only be life-changing for our adults, it would also challenge communities with the Christian message that individuals with disabilities, created in the image of God, actually have much to contribute in ways that can redeem the community.

In his faithfulness, God answered my prayer. Through the very committed and capable efforts of Food for the Hungry and their incredible staff in Peru, I was able to personally distribute school supply kits, assembled by adults at Elim, to children whose lives were devastated by a major earthquake almost a year ago. While the joy and gratitude I experienced from such gracious and loving Peruvians will not soon be forgotten, I was also affirmed in the belief that one day soon those same experiences of joy and gratitude will belong to our adults who are actually given the opportunity to hand deliver the very school supply kits they and their colleagues have assembled at Elim.

I give praise to God for answered prayer that affirmed the vision for Elim as a resource center of best practices, and for HOPE Packs as a tangible expression of that vision. I give praise that God revealed something even more powerful, a vision of Elim's adults distributing the school supply kits they assembled to children in need; and in doing so, giving powerful testimony to God and the value He places on all of us as his children.

— Bill Lodewyk
President, Elim Christian Services

Elim Adult Services

Adult Autism Is on the Rise

Elim is serving more individuals with autism than ever before. Partially due to the rising numbers of individuals diagnosed with autism and also because of the success of Elim's Autism Comprehensive Education (ACE) program, Elim's Adult Services area anticipates a far greater need for adult autism programming than in the past.



Jeff Payne (left) benefits from Elim's new ACTS program, headed by Mark Boys (right).

In order to address this issue, a new adult autism program, the ACTS (Autism Comprehensive Training and Services) program, launched in August of 2008. The immediate goal is to develop the infrastructure and staff members needed to quickly increase the number of adults served. While there are currently no openings in ACTS, we expect that in the future the program will grow up to approximately 30 adults. Most adults entering ACTS will be graduates of Elim's ACE program.

Veteran ACE staff member Mark Boys is excited to see the results the ACTS program brings. Boys explains, "My hope for the coming months is that I will be able to get to know each of the adults well, and that they will feel comfortable working with me. My focus will be on making our time together enjoyable and challenging, as well as reliable and consistent. It will be great to see the progress we make together in Adult Services in 2008!"



Working Hard and Loving It

Elim's Adult Services program provides an opportunity for those enrolled to earn a paycheck and vocational satisfaction through participation in their supported workshop program. In addition, Elim's Career Connections helps many adults with disabilities hold jobs out in the community by providing training, transportation, and supervision.

In the past year, Elim's adults have demonstrated significant gains in their productivity and skill development due to an enhanced emphasis on training opportunities on Elim's Palos Heights campus. The businesses served through Elim's workshop have also expressed their satisfaction with the efficiency and products produced by Elim's adults.

A greater blessing? Almost all families and individuals served at Elim express high levels of satisfaction with the services offered at Elim. Families are thrilled by the consistent work opportunities provided and the wide array of vocational, recreational, educational, and relational opportunities available for their loved one.

Adult Services Program Highlights

Due to a large deficit left by state funding, over 70% of all donor gifts to Elim Christian Services are used to fund the Adult Services program. Here are a few highlights from Adult Services made possible by your support:

- Elim served 204 adults in 2007!
- Elim's adults are getting older. In order to best serve Elim's adults and their changing needs, an Aging Task Force was put in place.
- Twenty of Elim's adults enhanced their ability to communicate through the use of augmentative communication devices.

A New Work Place for Elim's Adults

The adults with developmental disabilities at Elim Christian Services are changing the world – and now they have new facilities to allow them to do it more efficiently and effectively!

On June 2, 2008, one hundred adults with disabilities reported to the new Elim Adult Services Vocational Training Center, located at 15565 S. 70th Court in Orland Park, Illinois, for the facility's grand opening.



Elim's new Vocational Training Center is one tool to help Elim's adults reach their full potential.

On each work day since the new facility opened its doors, these adults have busily and capably performed assembly services from companies like Wilton, Panduit, and New Pages. In addition to these subcontracted projects, the facilities are used for community service projects, life skill training, and community employment.

Elim's adults have also recently embarked on an exciting new venture – the HOPE Packs Program. Through this exciting venture, Elim's adults assemble HOPE Packs to be distributed by ministries like Children's Hunger Fund, Food for the Hungry, and Global Aid Network (not to mention many local churches and ministries). The HOPE Packs contain food, hygiene items, or school supplies for needy children in the United States and worldwide. The new facility will be used for the assembly of these kits and accommodate small groups of volunteers to join them in their efforts.

The new facility replaces Elim's previous Adult Services vocational facility in Alsip, Illinois. Bradley Johnson, Elim's Director of Adult Services, believes, "The Elim Adult Services Vocational Training Center is more centrally located for the adults we serve. It provides easier access to the community for outings, service projects, and jobs. We were able to lay out the building to utilize our space much more efficiently."

In the past year, Elim's Adult Services staff members assembled over 15,000 HOPE Packs to be distributed to needy children throughout the United States and worldwide. After assembly, these kits are distributed through local churches or relief organizations like Children's Hunger Fund, Food for the Hungry, and Global Aid Network.

In the 2008-2009 ministry year, Elim's adults and staff members are excited to expand this life-changing program. Not only does the HOPE Packs Program provide increased vocational opportunities for Elim's adults, but it also provides them with an opportunity to change their world for the better. Elim's adults can see and feel the significance of their work and profoundly impact the lives of those they are serving!

ELIM ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES ARE CHANGING THE WORLD



Turn the page to find out more about how HOPE Packs changes lives...

Elim Ministry Outreach



Elim staff member Tricia Brinks holds a young child at CasAyuda in Honduras.

Elim Serves Individuals with Disabilities Worldwide

Elim is committed to serving as a resource center of best practices. Whether it is a child in our school, residential, or Discovery program learning something they have never learned before, or one of our adults smiling when they see a picture of the school supply kit they assembled in the hands of a young child in Peru, all are manifestations of Elim's vision to share the expertise accumulated in sixty years of ministry with a world in need.

Elim's staff has answered the call to provide special education training and curriculum in several areas:

- Ashish School in New Delhi, India, is now serving 31 students with disabilities. Founded in 2007 with training from Elim's staff, Ashish provides excellent educational services.
- The trainees are becoming the trainers: Michelle of Tesoras de Dios received training from Elim's staff last year. Now, she is training staff at CasAyuda, another ministry helping individuals with disabilities in Latin America.

Discovery Center Expands to Help Even More Children

Elim's Discovery Center now serves approximately 500 students nationwide! Serving children within their local schools, the Discovery Centers provide academic testing and support to children struggling in their schoolwork.

Elim expanded on this concept in June, 2005, by opening the Discovery Educational Center, located in Villa Park in the western suburbs of Chicago. Serving children as young as kindergarten through adults, the Discovery Educational Center strives to provide the cutting-edge, proven strategies and curriculum offered in its Discovery Centers to individuals that may not have otherwise had access.

Discovery Network Services will be adding three new programs for the 2008-2009 school year – Downers Grove Christian School in Downers Grove, Illinois, Daystar Christian School in the city of Chicago, and Valley Christian Middle School in Cerritos, California.

- Elim President Bill Lodewyk recently took part in a distribution effort in Peru. During his time there, he was able to personally distribute school supply kits, assembled by adults at Elim, to children whose lives were devastated by a major earthquake almost a year ago.
- Elim hosted a TEACCH autism certification seminar in August, welcoming teachers from India and around the Chicago area to learn from Elim's expertise.
- In October, Elim hosted independent missionaries from Kyrgyzstan who wanted to learn from Elim's expertise in autism training and apply that knowledge to their special needs ministry in mid-Asia.



Evelyn is thrilled to be blessing others through her work in the HOPE Pack program.

EVELYN SUPRISED BY HER OWN MINISTRY

Evelyn is an elderly woman with a playful spirit who works half-days at our adult services workshop. She finds great joy in assembling HOPE Packs for children.

A staff member recently spent some time talking to the adults about their work, and he showed them some pictures of the children they were helping. As he talked about the children – how important it was for them to receive the HOPE Packs and how grateful they were to the clients at Elim – Evelyn joyfully exclaimed, "WOW, this is GREAT!"

Evelyn is a disabled adult living with dementia and Alzheimer's. Yet, she could focus on the impact that her work was having on others and experience purpose and true happiness. That is the impact of the HOPE Packs Program!

Elim Residential Services

Psychology Students Team Up With Residential Program

Elim's residential program recently opened their doors to a team of students working toward their masters degrees from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Working in cooperation with Elim's Director of Residential Services, Yemonja Smalls, and the behavioral team of Elim Christian School, the team will work to provide uniform and consistent supports to the residents and families served by Kamp Cottage. They will also support research initiatives that fall in line with the goals of the residential program.

Each member of the team comes with experience working with children with developmental disabilities who exhibit challenging behavior, and each has worked with individuals with autism in home and educational environments.

Harley the Dorm Dog

In November of 2007, Elim's residents welcomed Harley the Dorm Dog. Harley Elijah, an exuberant Shih Tzu, moved into Kamp Cottage and immediately became a hit with Elim's residents. Each morning, residents visit Harley to wish him a good morning and take turns giving him water, walks, and hugs!

Spending time with Harley has also become a great incentive for continued positive behavior from some residents. Harley draws expressions of love from Elim's residents each day. One resident, who for a long time has been very fearful of dogs, now gives the "thumbs up" signal every time she pets or holds him. Each day, Harley serves as a reminder that God sometimes gives us joy in very small packages.



Elim's residents love spending time with their friendly dorm dog!



Meaghan is growing in independence each day!

Meaghan Moves Towards Independence

Meaghan is a young lady on the move. A veteran of Kamp Cottage, Meaghan had recently shown signs that she was ready to take on new challenges. Elim's staff encouraged her to move into a different setting within Kamp Cottage where she would have increased independence and could work on self-help and daily living skills.

Meaghan has made this transition beautifully! With the support of staff, Meaghan is learning to enhance her skills in all self-help areas. Meaghan is proud of her new accomplishments and is already good friends with the other young ladies in her new residential area, while still visiting with her old buddies. Meaghan's happy smile and eager greetings are a testament to the dedication of our staff that help prepare the way to adulthood for our residents.

Every month, volunteers come alongside our adults to assemble HOPE Packs. Because the experience of working with adults with disabilities is new, some volunteers come in nervous and hesitant.

John nervously came to volunteer and was paired with Ken, an Elim adult with disabilities. As the morning progressed, John quickly became more comfortable with Ken and by day's end, even gave Ken a hug and said, "See ya later, buddy!"

All volunteers for the HOPE Packs Program walk away with a newfound appreciation for God's children with disabilities, truly seeing their impact on the Kingdom of God.

If you are interested in getting your church or church group to participate in the HOPE Packs Program, stop by www.hopepacks.com or call Jenna Hania at 877-9-ELIMCS.



HOPE PACKS CHANGES LIVES AND PERSPECTIVES...YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!

Elim Christian School

Elim Christian School Highlights

Elim Christian School always strives to be changing and improving in order to better serve its students. Both Elim Christian School's campus and curriculum experienced changes throughout the 2007-2008 school year in order to accomplish this important goal.

- Elim unveiled its new Literacy Center in 2008. The new Literacy Center contains a Smart Board, adaptive books, and a reading area. In addition, all books from Elim's previous library have been sorted to best correspond with the abilities of Elim's students.
- In order to address the current shift of serving children with more significant needs, Elim's vocational education program was revamped. Through the new Essentials program, even more students can receive vocational training and instruction and make progress toward reaching their full vocational potential.
- Elim's teachers and aides focused on Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS) training at their recent in-service in order to provide behavior management for students in the most effective and positive way possible.
- Elim's students are communicating better than ever thanks to new computers for the assistive technology area. Another Smart Board is also on its way to help these special individuals find their voices!
- Renovations were completed on the middle school, office, assistive technology department, and speech pathology areas to better utilize space and provide a more efficient learning environment for Elim's students.
- The Autism Comprehensive Education (ACE) program unveiled a new vocational education program in January to serve its students with autism.

Lives are Changing at Elim Christian School

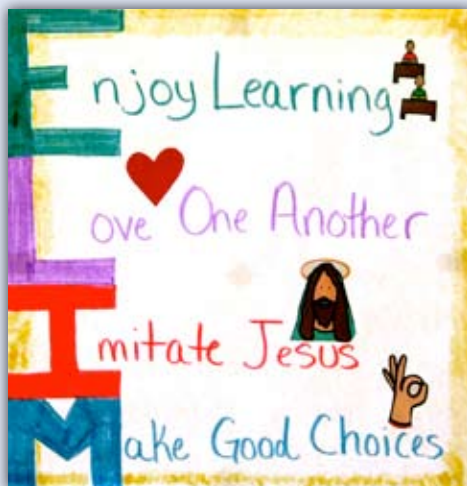
During the 2007-2008 school year, 253 students with developmental disabilities received an excellent Christian education at Elim Christian School. Because of the generosity of partners like you, many students experienced incredible breakthroughs on their way to reaching their full God-given potential. Here are a few highlights:

- Nathan has been much more alert and responsive lately, most likely due to a decreased number of seizures. He is more vocal and moving around more in both his wheelchair and his walker. Praise the Lord!



- Emily is doing amazing things at school this year! She loves picking up garbage in the classroom and recently learned how to put on and take off her own shirt! She also put a puzzle together with little help in occupational therapy.

Nathan has celebrated both physical and emotional milestones this year.



Sometimes a Picture Says It Best!

One Elim student created this masterpiece to express the importance of Elim in her life!



Emily is reaching her full God-given potential at Elim!

Elim Ministry Resources Statement 2007-2008

Operating Fund Details, 2007-2008

Unrestricted Net Assets as of July 1, 2007 173, 412

Revenues

Public Fees 13,949,595
 Private Fees 437,340
 Partnership 602,441
 Sales 397,058
 Gifts 1,963,599
 Other Support 152,887
 Elim Foundation 612,000
Total Revenue 18,114,920

Expenditures

Wages & Employees 14,573,635
 Occupancy 1,268,295
 Consumables 570,692
 Transportation 405,436
 Other 1,477,026
Total Expenditures 18,295,084

Result from Operations (180,164)
 Interfund Transfers..... (1, 950, 362)
 Fixed Asset Activity 2, 043, 465

Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2008 86, 351

Operating Fund Projections, 2008-2009

Revenues

Public Fees 15,577,700
 Private Fees 393,400
 Partnership 544,200
 Sales 400,600
 Gifts 1,850,000
 Other Support 87,000
 Elim Foundation 580,000
Total Revenue 19,432,900

Expenditures

Wages & Employees 15,419,800
 Occupancy 1,150,700
 Consumables 565,800
 Transportation 466,100
 Other 1,674,200
Total Expenditures 19,276,600

Foundation Performance, 2007-2008

Foundation Balance as of July 1, 2007 12,255,546

Gift Revenues

Trusts & Estates 201,852
 Endowments 3,325
 Other Gift Revenue 12,075
Total Gift Revenue 217,252

Investment Revenue

Interests & Dividends 328,414
 Realized Losses on Securities (27,946)
 Unrealized Losses on Securities..... (557,421)
Total Investment Revenue (256,953)

Total Revenues (39,701)

Expenditures

Investment Fees 33,399
 Promotion 12,457
 Other 47,925
 Distribution to Elim Operating Fund 612,000
 Endowment Distributions 31,867
Total Expenditures 737,648

Foundation Fund Balance as of June 30, 2008 11,478,197

Operating Expenses by Program, 2007-2008

School 9,674,420
 Adult Services 3,626,124
 Residential Services 1,905,864
 Discovery Network 712,425
 Management & General Office..... 1,788,147
 Advancement..... 588,104
Total 18,295,084

Operating Expense Projections by Program, 2008-2009

School 10,019,800
 Adult Services 3,868,800
 Residential Services 1,758,000
 Discovery Network 734,500
 Management & General Office..... 2,131,500
 Advancement..... 764,000
Total 19,276,600

"WHO SINNED, THIS MAN OR HIS
PARENTS, THAT HE WAS BORN BLIND?"

"NEITHER THIS MAN
NOR HIS PARENTS SINNED," SAID JESUS.
"BUT THIS HAPPENED THAT THE WORK OF
GOD MIGHT BE DISPLAYED IN HIS LIFE."

JOHN 9:2-3



Moving Beyond ...

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