



Your Impact Report
2009-2010


ELIM
christian services

From Challenge to Opportunity

Treasured partners,

Certainly each one of us can recall times when we have been particularly challenged, pressed beyond our human limits – times when, out of necessity, we more fully submit to God and come to greater dependence on him. Ironically, those times in our life when we, like David, feel most out of control, are often the times of greatest opportunity...



Bill Lodewyk enjoys time with the adults at the Orland Park campus of Elim.

"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken."

- Psalm 62:5-6

The irony of challenging times producing great opportunities is not limited to individuals, it is also true of organizations. What I hope you will see as you peruse this annual report is how God is using the challenges we face to remind us of His faithfulness and to produce new opportunities that contribute to a vibrant future for Elim Christian Services.

Therefore, I hope this report also gives you pause to celebrate what God is accomplishing through your support. Adults with disabilities are truly equipped to minister to others. Children are making strides their parents feared might never be possible. Almost 500 children receive Discovery services in their own Christian schools, and hundreds more people around the world are being reached with Elim's message through our partner's outreach efforts.

I am more encouraged about the future of Elim Christian Services because of how we have responded to the challenges. By God's grace, we have emerged more efficient and more prepared to engage our vibrant future. As a result of our recent strategic planning efforts, we are more unified in our vision and more precise in how we plan to make that vision a reality. I look forward to sharing the 2010-2015 Strategic Vision with you upon its endorsement by the Board of Directors.

May you, our partners, be encouraged to find this annual report to be a testimony that we find our rest in God alone; He is our rock and salvation, our fortress that will not be shaken.

— Bill Lodewyk
President, Elim Christian Services

September 2009

- Elim school families and staff raise almost \$25,000 through Tootsie Roll drive and purchase SMARTBoards for six classrooms.
- Elim Women's Service League hosts 13th annual Dutch Festival, raising over \$145,000.

October 2009

- Elim hosts final "2009 Church Supply Drive" for school supplies, bringing in over 4,000 packs of supplies for Elim adults to assemble.

December 2009

- Elim Adult Services receives CARF 3-year accreditation, earns rare "Exemplary" rating for Elim HOPE Packs.

Elim Adult Services

Elim Adults Serve Through Childcare



Liz Leinse joins with several other Elim adults in ministering to others by volunteering with local MOPS groups.

Several women from Elim's Adult Services program are serving mothers – and earning a valuable paycheck – by providing childcare services for a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group in a local church.

While there, the women work alongside church volunteers to provide loving care, help with crafts, and assist with Bible stories. Most of the adults from Elim have been matched with this opportunity because of previous babysitting experience or a love of children.

Roseanne Bultema is the job coach overseeing this partnership and has been excited at the results. "Both sides have benefited from this experience," Bultema offers. "Individuals from the churches have repeatedly expressed how much they love the ladies from Elim and have enjoyed establishing relationships with them. Everyone's excited to start the program again this fall!"

Ministry Highlights

January 2010

- Elim adults respond to Haiti earthquake by assembling 10,000 food packs, 6,000 hygiene packs, 2,000 school packs, and over 8,600 rice & bean packs.

February 2010

- Board of Directors commissions 5-year-plans for Educational Services, Adult Services, and Discovery/Ministry Outreach.

May 2010

- Elim hosts *Called to Serve* event, joining hundreds of people around the belief that God has a kingdom mission for people with disabilities.
- Elim's ABLE project (providing staffing support through internships) chosen for project replication by Intersect for Ability.

June 2010

- Elim partners with Hope Alliance to distribute school packs in the Dominican Republic and establish ministry outreach partnership.



Elim HOPE Packs provides a way for Elim's adults to make a difference.

Elim's Adults Aid Earthquake Survivors in Haiti

July marked the six months since the tragic earthquake in Haiti. When the earthquake hit, several of Elim's adults had recently embarked on an Elim HOPE Pack mission trip there.

Upon hearing the news of the catastrophe, Elim's adults immediately went to work. Gifts flooded in to support this valuable work. Over \$65,000 was raised to send HOPE Packs to Haiti and this money was then matched by a generous donor!

These gifts translated into 10,000 food packs and 8,640 rice & bean packs for Haitian individuals desperately in need of this support. Each food pack is filled with enough supplies for six meals. Additionally, Elim's adults have packaged 2,000 school supply kits and 6,000 hygiene kits that have been shipped to Haiti where they will be distributed by a local Christian relief organization.

Elim's adults are hard at work packaging more food packs filled with red beans and rice. Through Elim HOPE Packs, they're thrilled to know that their hard work is bringing joy and hope to children in Haiti!

Adult Services Awarded Exemplary Rating

In December 2009, the Adult Services Elim HOPE Packs program was awarded a rare and prestigious "Exemplary" rating by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The surveyors commended Elim and noted the impressive partnership Elim has developed through local churches and organizations.

CARF praised the positive impact created by Elim HOPE Packs, including the provision of meaningful paid work opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities, promoting acceptance of individuals with disabilities within our community, creating numerous partnerships that expand opportunities for our adults, and enhancing cultural diversity through the mission trips and visiting missionaries.

ADULT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

- Number of adults currently served: 209
- Number of seniors in program: 28
- Number of adults working on Elim HOPE Packs: 200
- Number of adults in ACTS program: 9
- Number of staff members: 45

Last year, Elim's adults celebrated being named Wilton's #1 vendor for the second consecutive year! Despite that honor, Elim's adults soon lost much of that work to a cheaper vendor. Sadly, this situation is not isolated, as throughout the past decade, many subcontracted packaging opportunities have been lost. In order to best serve Elim's adults and continue to offer them vocational training and opportunities, Elim Adult Services is changing its programming to a broader vocational and skill training program. Keep checking Elim's *Equip* newsletter for more details!

Ministry Outreach



Elim HOPE Packs provide many children, such as these girls from Peru, with school supplies so that they can attend school.

Glorifying God Overseas

As you read this report, the Elim HOPE Packs program continues to grow. Perhaps the most important aspect of Elim HOPE Packs is that it equips people with disabilities to do kingdom work – which is exactly what they were created to do.

Through Elim HOPE Packs and its partner ministries, three of Elim's adults recently traveled with Elim staff members to Peru and the Dominican Republic. Elim's adults distributed HOPE Packs and participated in mercy activities throughout their time there. When Mimi wiped the face of a young child, she was used by God to bless that child. When Gale assembled a school pack with Danilo, she was a co-laborer in God's kingdom.

The outreach trips benefit the adults in practical ways too. First, adults like Gale and Mimi are able to connect what they are doing in their daily work with the recipients of God's mercy. It helps them really understand that their work is impacting the lives of those around them. They also return from their trips with a passion that spurs on the rest of Elim's HOPE Packs team to keep serving. They encourage their workfloor colleagues in doing something that is important, reminding each other to be thankful for God's providence in their lives. Even their self-esteem, such a vital issue for so many people with disabilities, is affected in positive ways.

Through their participation, these adults live out the fact that they are valued and created by God to respond to His call to serve others!

One of Elim's adults, Gale Gard, visited Peru on a mission trip to hand out Elim HOPE Packs.



Elim HOPE Packs make a difference in the lives of needy children.

MINISTRY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

- Number of students served in the Discovery programs: approximately 550
- Number of Discovery Centers: 22
- Number of schools with a Discovery Center: 17
(some school systems have more than one Discovery center)

One School's Discovery Center Makes a Difference

Jacob had a hard time letting his teacher know when he didn't understand the day's lesson. Eventually, he fell far behind his classmates, testing at a third grade level when finishing fourth grade. His family turned to their school's Discovery Center for help.

Now, after just a few months of daily tutoring, Jacob has caught up with his classmates. While the Discovery services will always be available if he struggles in the future, this spring he is expected to no longer require special help and will receive his reading lessons alongside the rest of his fifth grade classmates.

New Discovery Centers Added: New Discovery programs were added this year at DeMotte Christian School and HOPE Protestant Reformed Christian School. Through these and other such programs, hundreds of students will be able to receive academic assistance and tutoring within their own Christian school.

Agencies Join Forces to Serve Seniors



Evelyn is just one of dozens of adults with disabilities blessed by the GRACE project in Elim's Senior's program.

Last year, Elim and nine other agencies joined forces under the name "Intersect for Abilities" to share information to better serve individuals with disabilities. This year, Intersect for Abilities worked together on the GRACE Project, which organized information that related to how individuals with developmental disabilities experience aging and can best be served. This information will be presented at the National Q Conference in New Orleans.

Brad Johnson, Director of Adult Services, recently explained how this program will benefit Elim's senior adults. "As Elim's adults age, they often have an earlier onslaught of aging disorders than the general population. Their need for additional mental, emotional, and physical supports are increasing dramatically. This, coupled with dementia, is really stretching staff to adequately meet their needs. Additional information and staff training are crucial in addressing the many different issues facing Elim's senior adults."

Currently, Elim serves 28 adults in its Seniors' program. In order to enjoy their golden years, the Seniors' program allows them fewer work hours and places more of an emphasis on social and recreational opportunities. A number of other non-senior Elim adults have also been diagnosed with dementia. The information gathered through the GRACE Project will be an invaluable guide to help Elim and other organizations best serve these individuals.

INTRODUCING INTERACTIVE METRONOME

Elim's Discovery Center added yet another tool to their arsenal this year with the addition of Interactive Metronome. Interactive Metronome is a brain-based training program developed to directly improve the processing abilities that affect attention, motor planning, and sequencing. This, in turn, strengthens motor skills and many fundamental cognitive skills such as planning, organizing, and language.

Children's Services

Katie's Mom Wants to Thank You

Dedicated residential services staff, in partnership with Elim Christian School, continue to devote themselves to each child who calls Elim's campus their home away from home.

Katie Spratt is among those children. Katie came to Elim's residential program after her parents concluded that they could no longer meet her many social and behavioral needs. Because of their efforts and the support of Elim champions, Katie has developed more appropriate social skills such as table manners and the ability to interact with her peers in various activities. Her behavior has improved greatly, allowing her greater social experiences both on campus and in the community.

Katie's mom, Jackie, agrees. "The staff has gone over and above in providing a nurturing environment for my daughter. Without them, I don't know where Katie would be today. My family is so thankful for each and every one of them."

Jackie is also grateful for generous people who have championed her daughter's needs by supporting Elim. "Anyone that's ever donated time, money, or just a loving thought or prayer on Elim's behalf is a very, very special person. Thank you very much for supporting Elim and the outstanding work they do for our children."



Katie has come a long way since entering our program. She will be able to live a more fruitful life thanks to the dedication of our residential program and the support of Elim friends.

Elim's Staff Committed to Excellence

Anthony Learns Skills at Local Preschool



Anthony Forde loves kids! And, with his new position as an assistant at Southwest Chicago Christian School's preschool, he's able to learn valuable skills while having fun!

An independent worker, Anthony is beneficial to the preschool because he is able to jump in wherever needed. His responsibilities vary each day – helping the kids with activities, cleaning up after

snack, or assisting the teacher. Anthony's help allows the teaching staff to spend more individualized time with the kids. The children also benefit from their positive interaction with an individual with a disability. Especially because of their young age, this experience will help them develop positive memories and break down any future barriers.

Anthony is also learning important skills during his time there. His independence has grown, he's having fun, and he is learning responsibility. As he continues in Elim Christian School's vocational program (STEP), Anthony will also have more placements in other vocational settings to help him identify his skills and interests. Elim's staff hopes this is just one experience that will help him discover what he would like to do following his graduation.

Elim Residential Program Update: As students graduate and move out of the residential program, the program continues to downsize. Ultimately, this process relieves continuing financial pressure on the Elim community. In the last four years, Elim's residential program has gone from 28 to 16 residents. Please pray for the residents and for our dedicated residential staff.

First ACE Games a Huge Success

This year, 83 children and 8 adults came together for the first "ACE Games." The ACE Games were intended to offer a celebratory athletic-type experience while catering to the specialized needs of children and adults with autism. Individuals were able to participate in 35 sports, athletic, or sensory games. There was little music, background noise, or waiting – all frequently difficult circumstances for individuals with autism.

Anna Quist, one of ACE's recreational therapists, was excited to see how positive the experience was for those who participated. She said, "We wanted to provide an event where they could celebrate their talents and abilities with their families. We expected it to be a good day, but we were still overwhelmed by how positive the experience was for the participants."



SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Number of students currently served: 274
- Number of students enrolled in ACE program: 63
- Number of staff members: 296
- Number of classrooms in Elim Christian School: 34

Elim Ministry Resources Statement 2009-2010

Operating Fund Details, 2009-2010

Undesignated Net Assets as of July 1, 2009 485,362

Revenues

Public Fees 16,090,317
 Private Fees 417,710
 Partnership 546,862
 Sales 326,838
 Gifts 2,089,071
 Other Support 55,438
 Elim Foundation 560,000
Total Revenue 20,086,236

Expenditures

Wages & Employees 15,799,540
 Occupancy 1,037,705
 Consumables 514,166
 Transportation 484,114
 Other 1,386,139
 Debt Service 308,900
Total Expenditures 19,530,564

Result from Operations 555,672
 Fixed Asset Activity (826,665)
 Restricted Gift Activity 807,547

Undesignated Net Assets as of June 30, 2010 1,021,916

Operating Fund Projections, 2010-2011

Revenues

Public Fees 16,117,300
 Private Fees 371,500
 Partnership 470,800
 Sales 357,600
 Gifts 2,050,000
 Other Support 53,300
 Elim Foundation 560,000
Total Revenue 19,980,500

Expenditures

Wages & Employees 15,841,300
 Occupancy 1,050,300
 Consumables 657,700
 Transportation 498,500
 Other 1,342,700
 Debt Services 590,000
Total Expenditures 19,980,500

Operating Expenses by Program, 2009-2010

School 11,102,908
 Adult Services 3,513,295
 Residential Services 1,426,269
 Discovery Network 795,744
 Management & General Office 1,803,088
 Advancement 580,360
Total 19,530,564

Operating Expense Projections by Program, 2010-2011

School 11,812,100
 Adult Services 3,379,500
 Residential Services 1,160,600
 Discovery Network 707,700
 Management & General Office 1,847,400
 Advancement 483,200
 Debt Service 590,000
Total 19,980,500



WHERE AND HOW ELIM IS HAVING AN IMPACT



United States of America

- 209 adults with disabilities served in the Chicago region
- 275 children with disabilities served in the Chicago region
- 450-500 children in 22 programs in 17 Christian school systems served in California, New Mexico, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois
- Discovery Center added to De Motte Christian School in De Motte, Indiana
- Discovery Center added to Hope Protestant Christian Reformed School in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 2,000 school packs assembled by Elim adults distributed in Lawndale community of West Chicago
- Almost 1,000 school packs distributed through

- Faith World Christian Center, River Oaks Community Church, and Children's Hunger Fund
- 3,000 food packs distributed to World Vision and Christ's Vineyard in Chicago, Illinois
- 31 churches ran Elim HOPE Packs supply drives, providing enough supplies for over 4,000 school packs
- Over 410 employees worked in one of Elim's program areas
- Over 75 volunteers helped in different programs at Elim
- Over 100 volunteers helped assemble Elim HOPE Packs alongside Elim adults
- Over 900 families were served domestically

Netherlands

- Team from Netherlands visits Elim Center of Best Practices for training

Zimbabwe

- 2,880 school packs (Global Aid Network)
- Team visits Elim Center of Best Practices, leads training seminar in Zimbabwe for 18 people using Elim best practices
- Community developing special education school based on Elim's best practices

India

- Weekly consulting with Ministry Outreach liaison in New Delhi
- 600 special needs professionals trained using Elim best practices

Dominican Republic

- 600 school packs
- 1,700 food packs (Hope Alliance)
- 1 Ministry Outreach trip resulting in identified Ministry Outreach liaison

Haiti

- 10,000 food packs (Convoy of Hope)
- 6,000 hygiene packs
- 2,185 school packs
- 8,600 rice & beans packs shipped
- 1 Ministry Outreach trip (Haitian Support Ministries)

Honduras

- Two-member team from Casa Ayuda spends one week at Elim Center of Best Practices

Peru

- 3,000 school packs (Food for the Hungry)
- 1 Ministry Outreach trip identifying potential for partnership

Guatemala

- 5,500 school packs (Food for the Hungry)

Uganda

- 90 school packs (Ugandan Orphanage Relief)

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