



CARING Voices

Annual Report

Winter, 2008 - 2009

Director's Report

Mission Statement

CARING for Children, Inc. seeks to nurture hope and create safety in the lives of children and families in crisis by providing high quality care, shelter, education, and treatment.

CARING

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9 programs
funded



To say that the times are uncertain would be a clear candidate for the understatement of the year. To reduce expenses, we have decided to publish this issue of CARING Voices in a brochure style. While the presentation may not be as exciting, we hope the information is just as relevant.

At a time when many agencies are being forced to close their doors, CARING for Children has remained available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week to lend a helping hand to children and families in need. Over the course of fiscal year 2007 – 2008, CARING for Children helped more than 600 Buncombe County children and families, many of whom had no way to pay for the service. CARING for Children often stands alone as the only agency dedicated to helping children and families without regard to their ability to pay for the service.

Although each year it becomes more and more difficult to find the resources necessary to meet that mission, we keep trying to help children like Jaime. To his dismay, I call Jaime “Jimmy” or “Jimbo.” Jimmy and his mother began their involvement with CARING through our Latino Mentoring program. Jimmy was having difficulty at school and at home, and his mother was having a great deal of difficulty finding any help. With the help of the Latino Mentoring Program, Jimmy’s grades and behavior in school improved dramatically. He continued, however, to have problems at home.

At the request of the Latino Mentoring Program staff, CARING’s Project Home Base program began to work with Jimmy’s family. Since Jimmy’s mother had two jobs, her income was above the threshold for Medicaid eligibility, and Project Home Base was the only Community Support program willing to help. While the Project Home Base team worked with them in their home, Jimmy and his mother were also able to attend CARING’s Family Connections program. Family Connections helps parents improve their parenting skills and helps to work on the relationship between parents and their children. From time to time, Jimmy’s mother was also able to take advantage of CARING’s Community Respite Program. The Community Respite program provides respite placements, usually for one or two days, for children like Jimmy. The respite placements gave Jimmy’s mother a chance to take care of herself and the rest of her family. Over the course of eight months, Jimmy and his Mom were able to work through their problems, and Jimmy is back on track and doing well at home and in school.

Jimmy’s story is but one of many similar stories that CARING could tell every year. It is a story of how all of CARING’s diverse programs fit together to help families in need. Unfortunately, due to difficult economic times and funding issues, we were forced to make the painful decision to discontinue both the Latino Mentoring Program and the Community Respite Program. I wonder where Jimmy would be today without those programs. It would be unfortunate, indeed, if CARING for Children was not there for families like Jimmy’s. History tells us that if economic times get more difficult, the need for CARING’s programs will only increase. With that in mind, we hope that you will help us continue to meet our mission of providing high quality programs for children and families in need **without regard** to their ability to pay for the service.

CARING for Children, Inc., has served Buncombe County children and families since 1974