

# SCHWARTZ CENTER FOR CHILDREN

*"Helping children achieve their greatest potential"*



**ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

*Celebrating our 61st year of service to the community*

[www.schwartzcenter.org](http://www.schwartzcenter.org)

## Growth and Change

*Barry R. De St. Croix,  
(Executive Director 1991-2008)*



This last fiscal year of 2008 was our second year in the new building. We still refer to it as "the new building", because it looks and feels new, even though it has become home to our staff, children and their families. Only rarely do we remember or reminisce about our "old building" at 374 Rockdale Avenue in New Bedford.

So it is with change. We all talk about change in our political climate, in the state of affairs, and especially in our children's lives as they grow and develop. Time changes everything, and soon what is new is experienced and expected.

### Schwartz Center Board of Directors

Jonathan Schwartz, M.D., President  
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Joseph Winterhalter, Sr.

Thirty five years ago, I walked into a small center with a handful of children and a smaller handful of staff. There Agnes Rapos, Posa, ruled the roost, with a firm but loving grasp on us all. We learned, children and staff alike, to compensate, improve and develop. We focused on keeping afloat and doing the very best we could.

Yet we grew and changed with new programs, to better meet the needs of our children and their families. In December of 1991, I became the second executive director, at the time following in Posa's footsteps as best I could. When I look back I realize that we have surpassed our own expectations from where the center would or could be in 2008.

Today, the center has grown considerably, to this large new building in Dartmouth with a staff of 80, and revenues of \$3.6 million and still keeping current, if not ahead of the curve, with today's practices with more new programs that provide the very best care available for our children and families.

*con't. on back cover*

## Success

Mary Hodgson  
Executive Director



Lately, I've been thinking about what the word "success" means. I am certain that we all define success differently, whether for ourselves, others, or for the organizations in which we are engaged and support. Our definitions of success, I believe, are a reflection of what we value and what we have experienced. Moreover, we all seem to think that our definition is the right one.

Since I began to work with you as the Executive Director of the Schwartz Center, my old definition of success has been blown to bits. I now define success as *Doing the best you can, While helping others to do their best*. It is a circular definition, an inclusive definition, not a definition that brings one upward above all others.

I am very lucky because I have the opportunity to witness success constantly, every minute of every work day. I experience it through the dedication of our staff, the love of our parents, and most importantly, through the commitment and hard work of our children. I have come to realize that our children have the level of determination much like that of professional athletes, and while their bodies and minds might not be as cooperative, *their commitment to their own success, is as great*.

I experienced this reality first hand at our recent walk-a-thon. Jared, a gentle 13 year old young man, with warm brown eyes, came to the event with his father. I walked over to him as his father left Jared's side to register for the event. I knelt beside Jared as he rocked back and forth, in his wheelchair like he usually does. While I knelt beside him, I held my hand near the wheel of his chair because I feared he would catch his hand in the spokes. To my surprise, in what I felt was a random movement, Jared swung his arm around and his hand landed on mine. As his movements continued, I thought he might hurt his other hand, so I removed my hand to quickly steady his chair. Yet once again, with what seemed to be a random movement, his hand swung and came down upon mine. I looked into Jared's eyes to try to discern what was happening. His warm brown eyes had a twinkle. They were smiling at me! In addition to holding my hand, he now held my heart. Jared was reaching for my hand and holding it because he wanted to do exactly that.

Success! Jared's success. This initial, precious moment I experienced early in my life here at the Schwartz Center is one of many such moments *I feel daily in this valued - and very valuable - place*. Such moments can truly be defined as success and this success belongs to Jared. It is typical of what we see our children reach for every single day. I know that Jared's triumphs are a result of not only a very loving family, but also a result of his hard work and the dedication of our staff. Together their actions and contributions are interwoven into what I would call "true success."

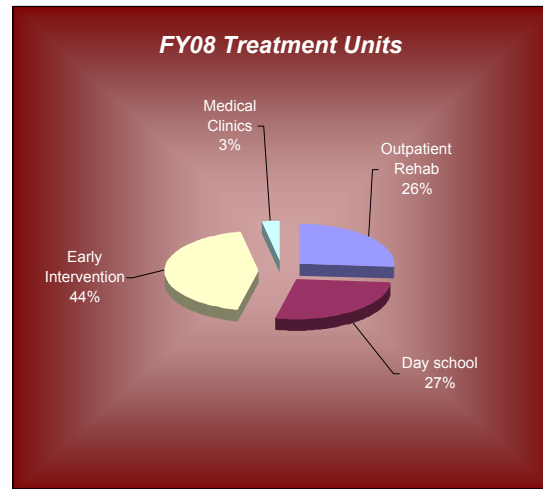
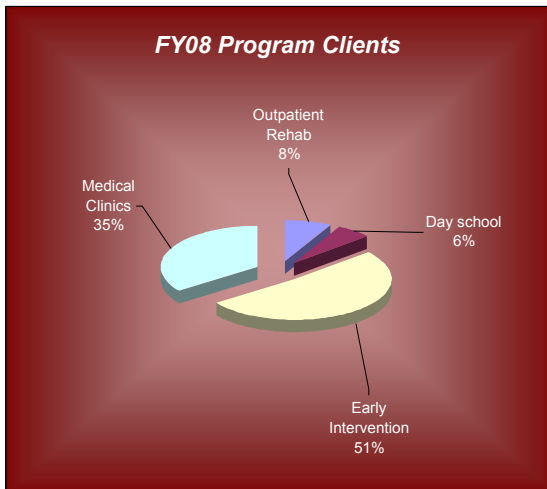
You know that our staff works passionately to help children improve the use of our most precious human gifts, *the gift to relate to, and to reach out to, others*. What you may not know is that they are able to accomplish what they do, in significant part, because of your support. ***We can't carry out this very important work without you! Thank you, many times over.*** I am truly honored to work with you to help our children reach their greatest potential.

My most heartfelt and sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

# Financial Snapshot of Agency

for the year July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008



<b>Programs</b>	<b>children / clients</b>	<b>treatment / units</b>
<b>Outpatient Rehab</b>	79	11,030
<b>Day school</b>	61	11,600
<b>Early Intervention</b>	526	18,342
<b>Medical Clinics</b>	360	1,238
<b>Totals</b>	<u>1026</u>	<u>42,210</u>
<b>RCP Professional Trainings</b>	865	
<b>Consultation Services</b>	121	

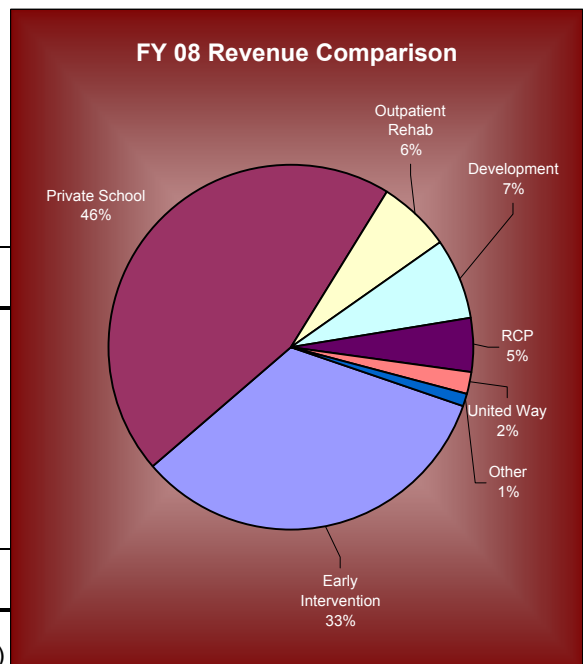
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY07</b>
Early Intervention	\$ 1,201,994	\$ 897,835
Private School	1,633,543	1,473,523
Outpatient Rehab	230,883	119,720
Development	251,823	307,625
RCP	175,000	135,833
United Way	72,853	73,239
Other	(36,072)	66,755

**Total Operating Revenue** \$ 3,530,024 \$ 3,074,530

<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY07</b>
Employee Compensation Expense	\$ 2,487,293	\$ 2,360,552
Other Program Expense	320,792	309,890
Direct Administrative Expense	135,347	140,505
Occupancy Expense	290,212	261,407
Non-Reimbursable Expense	11,201	39,282
Depreciation of Building & Equip.	184,328	98,815

**Total Operating Expenses** \$ 3,429,173 \$ 3,210,451

**Operating (Deficit) Surplus** \$ 100,851 \$ (135,921)



The financial success and viability of the agency is dependent upon strong development and leadership as well as commitment and support from the community. Twelve percent of the revenues this year are from fundraising, donations and United Way support.

## Executive Staff

Mary M. Hodgson,  
*Executive Director*

Carol J. Almeida,  
*Director of Operations*

Dr. Edward Lund, Jr.,  
*Medical Director*

Margaret Maiato,  
*Director of Day School*

Sharon Costa-Smith,  
*Director of Early Intervention*

Pam Gagne,  
*Director of Finance*

Joanne Vital-Bernier,  
*Director of Regional Consultation Program &  
Outpatient Services*



## Growth and Change, *con't. from front cover*

Just as change was brought to our governing leadership this year, as Jonathan Schwartz, MD succeeded Joani Desnoyers as board president. It is once again time for change in leadership, as I pass on my role as executive director to Mary M. Hodgson. She is only the third executive director to lead this agency in its sixty year history.

There are those who remember and mourn the loss of Posa as our mentor and leader. There are those who still miss the 'old building' and the way things were. There might be those who are uneasy seeing me retire. I have spent my professional life at the Schwartz Center, learning and getting to know all of you. I'm proud of who and what we have accomplished over these years.

I look forward to the growing change ahead for the Schwartz Center for Children, under the new leadership of Mary. I know that in just a few years, we will all look back and realize again, how we surpassed our own expectations for the future of this wonderful center.

Thank you all for the opportunity to know, work and grow with you, over these thirty five years.

## SCHWARTZ CENTER FOR CHILDREN

*CEREBRAL PALSY COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW BEDFORD, INC.*

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*"helping children achieve their greatest potential"*

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