

# Schwartz Center for Children

*where love sees no limits*

**ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

*Celebrating our 62nd year of service to the community*

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

## A Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on my first year at the Schwartz Center I am always brought back to the words in our new logo – “Where love sees no limits”. These words describe so many facets of our community. It was how we were founded. Posa’s love for her own child, and children like him, would not allow her to see limits on what she could create. The love of the families and caretakers of the children we serve, while accepting, is a love often of hardship and endurance, a love without limits. Our children’s reaction to a smile, or a helpful hand, is pure and uncomplicated, a love that warms all of our hearts. Our staff, with their tireless perseverance, and their dedication to



serving our community, is a love of generosity without limit. Our past medical director, Dr Lund, who is featured in this report, while he chose a profession of pediatrics he had a ministry of caring and love at the Schwartz Center, where he served, for 39 years. And in you, our generous supporters, time and again I find myself touched by so many years of support, seemingly at times without limits.

My challenge, together with the Board of Directors and management team, as the leadership of our little community, is to never lose focus of this legacy, and yet, at the same time to overcome the obstacles presented by an environment of reduced state funding and reduced personal wealth. All, while the needs of the children and families which we serve, are enormous and growing.

However, I believe that challenges present unique opportunities to be creative and to collaborate. We began the last year with the recruitment of some energetic new board members, who have brought a knowledge base critical to meeting these challenges. As a result we have new programs and new clinical leadership. Dr Harry Webster, Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at New England Medical Center and Assistant Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine is our new medical director, replacing Dr Lund upon his retirement. We have contracted with Children’s Hospital Boston to bring Jo-Ann Bier, MD a developmental pediatrician to the center 1 day a week. Recently, children in the Southcoast region have had to wait anywhere from six months to a year to see a developmental pediatrician. This has meant losing critical time during a child’s development and causing

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### Schwartz Center for Children Board of Directors

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## A Thank You to Dr Lund

Imagine the early 1970s and consider what the Schwartz Center for Children looked like then. Posa and her staff did everything—all the personal care, education and physical training that are done today and without the benefit of specialized equipment, procedures or the supports of the present. Then add the fact that the children and families often faced such difficult challenges as lack of food and clothing. Posa would frequently put out the word to staff, volunteers and friends to bring in food for a child who might otherwise go without.

It was about 40 years ago that Dr. Edward G. Lund, Jr., first became associated with the Schwartz Center. Although he would not become medical director of another 15 years, following Dr. Peter W. Sweetster's retirement, Dr. Lund's dedication was formed in that environment.



Dr. Lund's work with the children of the center parallels the growth and development of the center. His story also tells much about the changes in diagnosis, treatment and support for children with physical and developmental impairments.

Dr. Lund recalls, "We would chip in for clothes or solicit donated clothing at local stores. They did 'Coats for Kids' at the holiday season." Early on, the center was supported by the local newspaper and local radio station, as well.

He adds, "We did our examinations and treatments on an old wooden table at first. We used whatever we had available."

Over the years social workers were a wonderful addition to the staff. Later there were requests for help by other towns in the area. The center started doing training services to make their experience available to others in the extended community.

Along the way the United Way began to sponsor the Schwartz Center for Children, originally named the Cerebral Palsy Council of Greater New Bedford. They became the center's largest annual donor, sustaining the work by yearly grants. Dr. Lund notes, "Without this deep community connection, the center might not have survived its difficult financial challenges. The center grew out of the New Bedford community and people always felt it was important to support it."

"Schwartz Center for Children is a homegrown organization, based on community support."

In his early years working with the center, Dr. Lund spent half a day per week seeing children. He often rode his bike the three miles to work, and would walk the five minutes from his office to the center on Rockdale Avenue.

Originally from Providence, Dr. Lund came to New Bedford after his medical training and service in the military in Virginia. He joined St. Luke's Hospital where he was a founding member of Pediatrics Associates of New Bedford, and he then began his uninterrupted work with The Schwartz Center. He happily recalls how he got to know and work with Louise Cohen and Helen Eisenberg. Then, Barry De St. Croix and Carol Almeida joined the group and started their long association with the center, working together with Posa, Dr. Lund and others.

While actively working and spending many hours with the Schwartz Center and his practice, he was married and raised a family. Dr. Lund's wife, Judy, developed her strong interest in Maritime history in and around New Bedford and the region. She became curator of the Whaling Museum and Chair of the Historical Commission of Dartmouth. She is still very active with her research, record keeping and writing. Now that Dr. Lund is retired he says cheerfully, "Now, I am going along for the ride with Judy's work."

As much as things have changed in the medical treatment and social understanding of children with physical and developmental disabilities, Dr. Lund says that what makes the Schwartz Center for Children unique and special is the devotion and positive attitude of the staff, "Their focus is on helping the kids. Because of the specialized nature of each child's situation, they get the attention they need."

He adds, "It is because of the way the staff relates to the children and each other that people stay. They like the atmosphere and the mission, as it relates to the kids, and as it relates to the other staff."

Prominent among the changes that Dr. Lund has witnessed in his 40 years with the center, he notes that there are giant improvements in therapists working with children at the birth to six month age levels. There is a well-developed range of neo-natal medical screening. He says, "We are much better at testing and measuring progress at 6 months to 1 year, and that helps the child's development when we can do appropriate intervention. We now have sensory diagnosis and treatment for hearing and vision impairments that did not exist in the earlier years."

On the other side of the advancements are such things as increasing layers of regulations and never-ending insurance complications. Diagnosis, treatment protocols and the business aspects have become more complex.

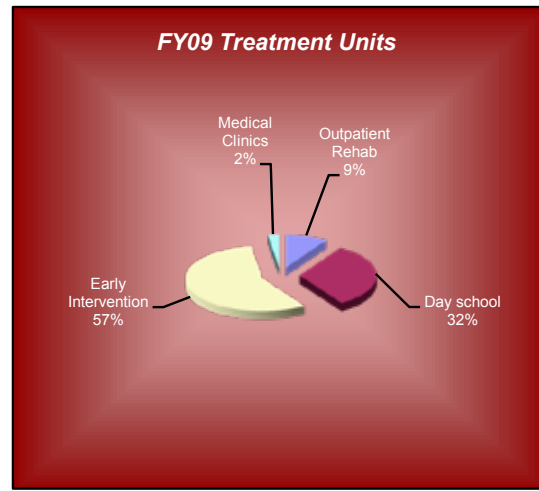
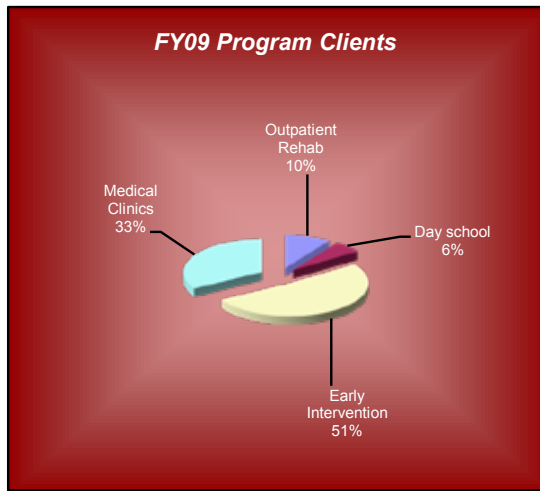
As he sums up his time with the center Dr. Lund says, "I am happy to see that the center has become even more than a valued place for children and families. It has become a real resource for teaching nursing and medical students and other healthcare professionals."

He hopes the center will keep involved with the community and the community will sustain the center, "The center's mandate is special caring and respect."

Above all, if given one wish for the future Dr. Lund says firmly, "**Be sure the center is always here, it must be here for the children, it can never shut down.**"

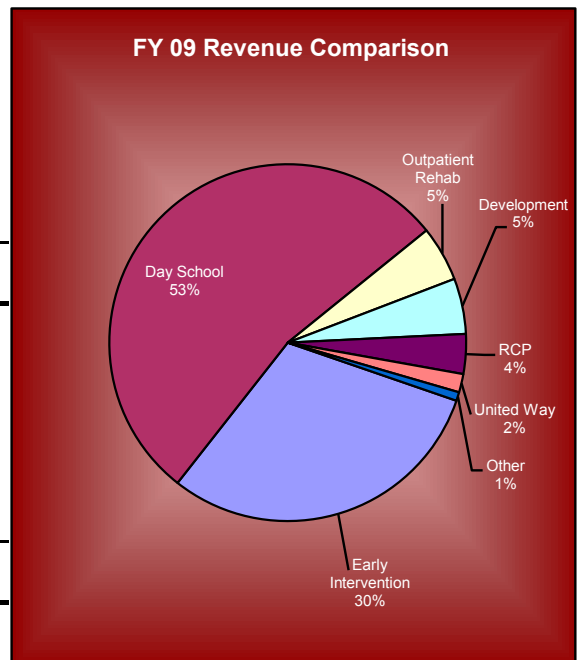
# Financial Snapshot of Agency

for the year July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009



Programs	children / clients	treatment / units
Outpatient Rehab	106	3,265
Day school	66	11,767
Early Intervention	575	20,902
Medical Clinics	374	855
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>36,789</b>

	FY09	FY08
<b>Operating Revenue</b>		
Early Intervention	\$ 1,301,869	\$ 1,201,994
Day School	2,300,286	1,633,543
Outpatient Rehab	215,053	230,883
Development	216,097	237,904
RCP	154,866	175,000
United Way	71,524	72,853
Other	33,771	60,224
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 4,293,466</b>	<b>\$ 3,612,401</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Employee Compensation Expense	\$ 3,120,261	\$ 2,487,293
Other Program Expense	393,605	318,700
Direct Administrative Expense	153,307	129,564
Occupancy Expense	312,075	290,212
Non-Reimbursable Expense	12,299	11,201
Depreciation of Building & Equip.	190,921	184,328
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,182,468</b>	<b>\$ 3,421,298</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 110,998</b>	<b>\$ 191,103</b>



The financial success and viability of the agency is dependent upon strong development and leadership as well as commitment and support from the community. Seven 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 Human Resources and Facilities*

Dr. Harry Webster,

*Medical Director*

Margaret Maiato,

*Director of Day School*

Sharon Costa-Smith,

*Director of Early Intervention*

Pam Gagne,

*Director of Finance*

James Middleton,

*Director of Philanthropy & Marketing*

Noreen McCarron,

*Director of Health Services & Clinical Safety*



agonizing worry for parents. We are now able to take new patients within a week or two allowing them access to not only diagnostic information, but also much needed therapies and treatments.

We have started a unique program that partners with a researcher and a professor from both Brown University and The University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth to create Family University. This unique program – we know of no other like it in the country – is designed to provide social skills to children with Autism, needed parenting skills to their parents, and resources to their siblings, supporting the family as a unit.

We have developed another unique partnership with graduate students at UMass Dartmouth. Not only are they studying the impact of Family University but they are working through their service learning program to design, with our leadership team, an outcomes tracking system for our programs.

We are also offering a free monthly lecture series on topics of interest for all families.

These new collaborations and programs provide us with additional opportunities to meet the many unmet needs in the Southcoast community and provide unique opportunities for future partnering.

So as we enter this new phase of our now 62 plus year old organization, I am ever grateful to have you, our supporters, beside us. None of this would have been possible without you.

With heartfelt thanks for all you do for us,

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**SCHWARTZ CENTER FOR CHILDREN**  
CEREBRAL PALSY COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW BEDFORD, INC.

ONE POSA PLACE

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*"helping children achieve their greatest potential"*

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