

# BETA

# Matters

Annual Report Edition  
Recap of 2008

The Official Newsletter of BETA Center

## Graduates Speak Out about What BETA Center Means to Them

"I came to BETA because I am a mother of a 1 year old boy and wanted to finish high school. Because of BETA, I learned to be more responsible for taking care of my son and attending school. Before I came to BETA, I had bad grades and went to jail for constant truancy. Now at BETA, I am an honor roll student and I am proud of myself. BETA has helped me to achieve my dreams for my son and me."

It is this positive attitude and sense of accomplishment that BETA hopes to instill in all of the young girls that come here. Less than 40% of teen mothers who have a child before the age of 18 ever complete high school. We're pleased to report that 29 young moms graduated from the BETA School program with 18 of them having immediate plans for further schooling, either vocational or college. Six of these 18 won "Bridges" Scholarships to attend Valencia Community College. These young women worked hard to reach their goals but, because of the help they got at BETA, they emerged more resilient and ready for more challenges.



"Here at BETA Center, I have learned to never let anyone tell you that you can't achieve anything because the sky is unlimited and you have to believe in yourself and stay focused."

"At BETA Center, I learned how to be a good parent and how to get along better with others, and that no matter what comes my way, I can overcome it and be successful in life so that I can secure my son's future."





4680 Lake Underhill Road  
Orlando, FL 32807  
407-277-1942 phone  
407-381-0907 fax  
www.betacenter.org

*“BETA Center’s mission is to give our community’s children and parents the knowledge and support needed for strong and healthy families.”*

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## Message from the President



Dear Friends,

The year 2008 marked BETA Center's thirty-second year of serving our community. Since 1976, thousands of struggling young women, children and families have come through our doors at BETA and found the help they need.

None of us should ever face life's challenges alone. BETA Center's role is to be there for troubled young people, and families in crisis, when they need us the most. Without the support of BETA, too many people would still be mired in hopelessness. Throughout 2008, as in the past, BETA Center was there for these people ... like the young teen who, when she discovered she was pregnant, thought her life was over ... that she would never make it with a baby. Today, she is facing the future with optimism thanks to the educational and supportive programs she and her child found at BETA.

The past year had its challenges, not just for our clients but also for BETA as an organization. Since I became chief executive officer in 1998, the agency has weathered many hard economic times ... after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the hurricane season of 2004. In 2008, when our economy took a major downturn, fund-raising revenues plummeted at a time when more families than ever were knocking on BETA Center's doors for support.

Since then, BETA Center has tightened its belt and fought hard to maintain the same level of service delivery in our core services - such as our school, childcare center and residence. Although our challenges are not over, we stay focused on what matters the most, giving families the skills and knowledge they need for a more positive future.

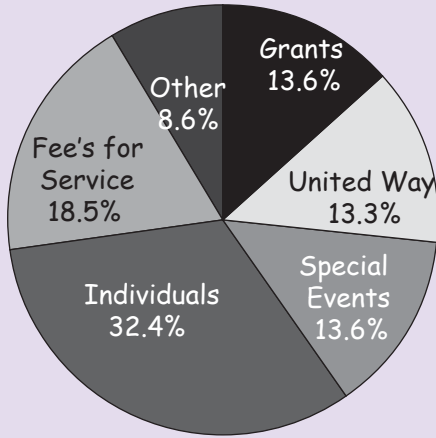
As always, it has been a privilege to be a part of changing so many lives for the better. From the staff, our board of directors and volunteers and, most of all, those we serve, we thank you for your partnership. I hope you can see how your investment in BETA Center is one that reaps many rewards for our community ... and that you will want to stay a part of it!

Sincerely,

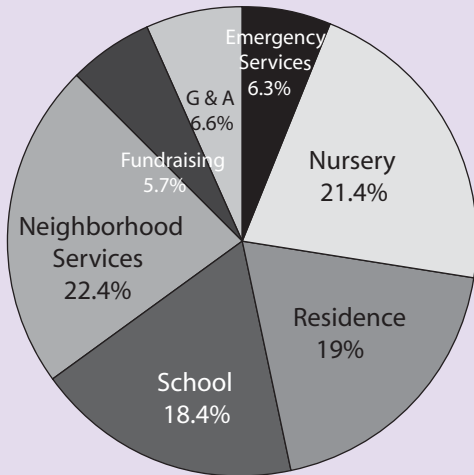
Hope Kramer  
President & CEO



## Income



## Expenses



## BETA Wish List

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Non-perishable foods | Paper towels      |
| Diapers              | Bath sponges      |
| Formula              | Children's books  |
| Baby Wipes           | Office supplies   |
| Bibs                 | Toilet paper      |
| Wash cloths          | Laundry detergent |
| Hooded towels        |                   |
| Infant clothes       |                   |

# 2008 Success Statistics



**53** young women and children found a safe home at BETA Center.

**91** students were enrolled in BETA Center's GED program.

**375** teens and children benefited from BETA Center's on-site school-based program, including counseling, child care, arts, and after school activities.

**445** community parents participated in parenting education classes at BETA Center.

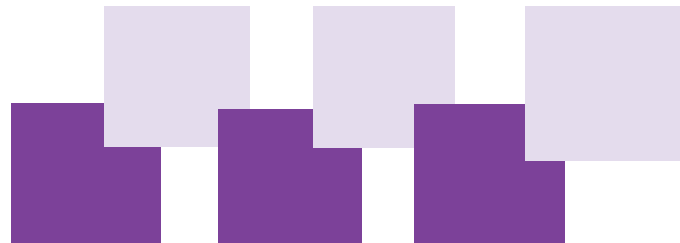
**1,048** children, youth and parents benefited from youth development, parenting workshops and family-focused events.

**8,655** hours were contributed by volunteers.

**14,016** heads of household in economic crisis were provided emergency services.

**16,018** individuals were served by all BETA Center programs.

**23,672** telephone calls were received by BETA Center.



# BETA Center's Core On-Site Programs

For more than three decades, BETA Center has addressed the needs of children, youth and families throughout the Greater Orlando area, with a particular expertise in teen and other high-risk parents. Under one roof, we offer young mothers support programs that include a 24-bed residence that provides a



safe place to live either during their pregnancy or after the birth of their baby, or both. We also offer a middle and high school-based program that offers academic training provided by Orange County Public Schools through its Alternative Education Program, integrated with a variety of educational and supportive programs provided by BETA staff. These include developmental child care; individual, group and family counseling; life skills training, parent education, expressive arts, an after school program and career/post-school planning. BETA Center has been a participant since 2002 in Reading Is Fundamental's (RIF's), "Shared Beginnings" program. The "Shared Beginnings" program helps young parents develop their children's early language and literacy skills. This national program prepares and motivates children and youth to read by providing new, free books and literacy resources to those children and families who need them most - such as BETA's teen moms and their children. RIF complements BETA Center's school and child development programs by being a resource for new, free books as well as a source of funding through its fund-raising activities enabling BETA to buy books for our library and other items promoting literacy.

In addition to the school and residence, core on-site programs include Emergency Family Support Services for the community. Job loss, domestic abuse, natural disasters and other crises can create chaos in families. At such time, BETA Center is there with information/referrals, housing assessments, an emergency pantry with food, baby items, baby layettes and equipment. Confidential pregnancy testing and counseling are also available.



Agency services are supported by a Volunteer Program. People of all ages, from high school students to senior adults and with widely differing skills, volunteer at BETA. They assist with fund-raising, help care for babies in the child care center, and distribute emergency food and baby items to walk-ins from the community.



# BETA Center's Outreach Services

## BETA Center Reaches into the Neighborhoods to Support Parents and Youth

BETA Center offers Community Parent Education on a variety of topics that promote skills-building, including "Families & Divorce: Helping Children Cope" for parents facing a divorce. For youth, we offer youth development classes aimed at teaching them goal setting, decision making and resistance skills.

### F.A.S.T. Track Program

Our new FAST Track program (Future Achievement and Success for Teens), follows our young moms after they leave BETA Center upon graduation or return to their home school, assuring a successful transition to independence. This program was launched in the fall of 2007. Through home visits, telephone contact, and special group events, BETA Center seeks to assure these young moms stay 'on track' to achieving their educational and vocational goals.

At a recent F.A.S.T. Track Event, participants were asked: "What positive decisions have you made lately and what helped you to make them?" Below are a number of their responses.

Well recently I made the decision to quit associating with bad crowds.

Since then, I've been focusing on my school and getting good grades.

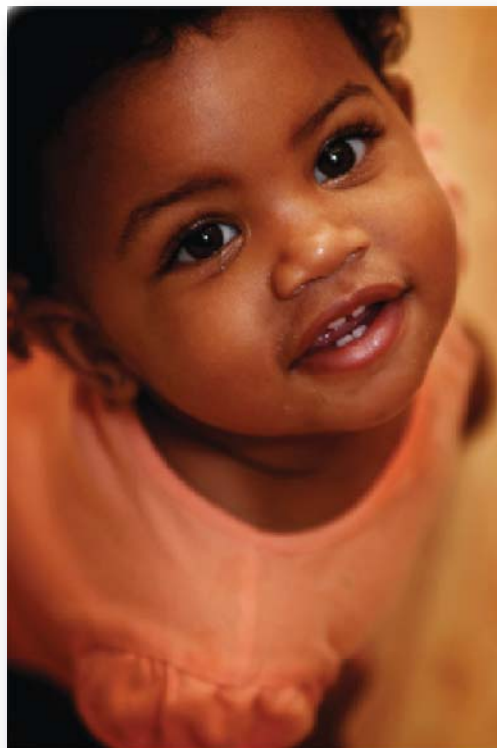
~ T. C.

To stay in school, to not have another baby, to help my mom and what helped me make these decisions is to do just do the right thing.

~ B. C.

Well to be honest, letting go of the past. All it brings is drama to the future.

~ K. B.



To enroll in school. Now I'm graduating soon. To enroll my child into school. Clean up my credit. Pay off medical bills. Get prepared for this pregnancy. I'm managing my money more and I'm becoming more of an independent woman.

~ C. Y.

I recently decided to join the National Guard. I made up my mind because I know that by doing this, I will better my life and my son's life. My mom helped me with my decision by accepting to keep my son while I'm away.

~ Q. M.

## Funder Spotlight: Galloway Foundation

Since 1964, the Galloway Foundation has made a major impact on Central Florida through its philanthropy in such critical areas as health, education, and social and human services. The Galloway Foundation was founded by Joe and Sarah Galloway, members of the original family that started the Winter Park Telephone Company. The majority of the foundation's funding came at the time of Sarah's death. The Galloway Foundation supports a variety of charitable organizations in Winter Park and surrounding communities, many of which were of particular interest to the Galloways. BETA Center was so pleased to have been invited to seek support for our counseling program last year, working with Trustees Robert Klettner, Jere Daniels and Jere Daniels, Jr. A substantial gift, received in October 2008, has measurably increased BETA Center's capacity to deliver our critically needed therapeutic counseling to school and residential clients over the past year. Thanks to the excellent individual counseling they get at BETA Center, our young moms emerge more resilient and ready for more challenges. In the words of one mom, "I have learned to stay determined no matter what life throws at me... (The BETA staff) taught me to be patient and how to deal with different problems that I had along the way." Thank you, Galloway

## Volunteer Spotlight: Wendy Andrew

All of our volunteers bring skills and talents to BETA and share a common concern - to make a difference in someone's life. In some cases, volunteering at BETA can be a multigenerational affair. That was certainly the case for the subject of this "Volunteer Spotlight," Wendy Andrew. Wendy's mom, Kathy Matheison, was a long-time volunteer and one of the backbones of the BETA organization for many years. Sadly, Kathy Matheison lost her life in 2004 after a long illness. However, her daughter Wendy carries on her legacy of volunteerism for BETA, bringing the same passion and resourcefulness to her post as did her mom. Wendy's volunteer service to BETA has spanned three decades. It started while she was still in her teens, when she helped her mom out by wrapping gifts at the BETA Gift Wrap Booth at local malls. Wendy has brought other volunteers and resources to BETA - from organizing her Disney group to staff whole days at the BETA Gift Wrap Booth . . . and delivering a reading workshop to BETA students to model the importance of reading to their children . . . to serving on the Diamonds & Denim Gala committee for THREE years, where she has sold tickets, secured in-kind resources from Disney and other sources and chaired the Logistics committee for two years.

When we asked Wendy recently what she felt it takes to be a good volunteer, Wendy replied "Passion, interest and willingness to do what is needed. ... Everyone has something that they can contribute."

# MANY THANKS TO OUR 2008 CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

## \$25,000+

Heart of Florida United Way  
Galloway Foundation  
Linda and Andy Hannigan  
Dr. Phillips, Inc.  
Orlando Sentinel  
Family Fund  
The Father's Table Foundation  
The School Board of Orange  
County, Florida  
Alfred I. duPont Foundation, Inc.  
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation

## \$5,000 - \$9,999 Cont'd

All Saints Episcopal Church  
Bank of America  
Judith and Terry Bangs  
George Daniels  
Harriett and Hy Lake  
Ann and Bill Wallace  
Joyce and Arnold Howell  
The Chatlos Foundation

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

Sisters of Charity Ministry  
Foundation  
The Ryan Foundation, Inc.  
National Retail Properties, Inc.  
Arra Mae and Bob Matheison  
Walt Disney World Company  
Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q  
Schwab  
Judy and Bob Yarmuth  
Terry and Michael Davis  
Ultima and John Morgan



## \$5,000 - \$9,999

Central Florida Women's  
Resource Center  
Tracy and Glenn Swanson  
Reading Is Fundamental  
Orlando Magic, Ltd.  
Darden Restaurants, Inc.  
SeaWorld Adventure Park  
Tupperware Corporation  
Bank of America - United Way  
Campaign  
Lavonne Graese  
Martin Andersen-Gracia  
Andersen Foundation  
Joe Minnix



# MANY THANKS TO OUR 2008 CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Cherie Rivett  
Shred-It Orlando  
Orange County Board of County  
Commission  
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Wal-Mart Foundation  
Roberta and Walt Walker  
Foley & Lardner  
Ann and Don Diebel  
Alpha Xi Delta Theta Sigma  
Chapter  
Donna and Tico Perez  
Mary and Rick Solik  
Hal Ziegler  
Stacie and Coby Welch  
Donna Climenhage  
Marchena and Graham, P.A.  
Sheila and Eduardo Rabel  
Winter Park Health Foundation  
Debbie and Chris Tessitore

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

Julie and Russ Suddeth  
ABC Fine Wine & Spirits  
Annunciation Catholic Church  
Judy Noble  
Kramer Family  
Saint Margaret Mary Church  
The Uzzell Group, Inc  
Bill and Jody Orosz  
Bank of America Matching  
Gifts  
John Dowless  
Hega Financial  
Progress Energy  
Universal Orlando Resort  
Hewitt Associates LLC  
Winnie Palmer Hospital for  
Women & Babies  
Ernst & Young  
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Coastal Reconstruction  
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The Golden Rule Foundation  
Albu & Associates, Inc.  
Lee Foundation  
J. Raymond Construction  
Corporation  
Jean and Tom Elrod  
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# MANY THANKS TO OUR 2008 CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

## \$1,000 - \$4,999 Cont'd

Marilyn and Gerry Ogier  
United Way of National Capital  
Area

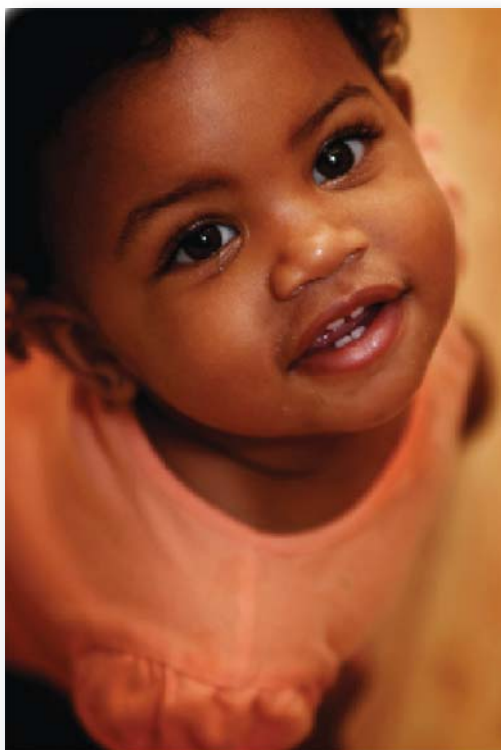
David J. Peckham  
First Presbyterian Church of  
Maitland

Rocks Park Avenue Jewelers  
Amanda Simmons  
Saint Francis of Assisi Church  
Rebecca Dice

St. James Catholic Cathedral  
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David Yurman Orlando  
Body Rock  
Mari and James Moye  
Patty and Bob Gardner  
GrayRobinson, P.A.  
Judith and Leonard Wieckowski  
Alan and Kelly Ginsburg



# MANY THANKS TO OUR 2008 CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

## \$1,000 - \$4,999 Cont'd

Michelle and John Richter  
Jennifer and Phil Anderson  
Mary and Larry Palombi  
Shirley and Leon Martuch  
Linda and Frank Bonnewitz  
Universal Orlando Foundation  
Kim Buchheit  
Mary, Queen of the Universe Catholic Shrine  
DeNeff Gallery  
Kathleen S. Sexton  
Lisa Mihelich  
Denise Fountain  
David A. Del Gardo  
Charles Schwab Foundation  
Bert Construction  
Puff 'n Stuff Catering  
Matt Guokas  
Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, Inc.  
Dierdre and Craig Macnab  
Jerry and Susan Roth  
Wachovia  
Sherry Martin  
Sarah Reiner  
Lee and Lou Nimkoff  
AirTran Airways  
Lee and Lou Brown  
Mary Ann and Peter Gruenberg



# YES!

I will invest in  
young mothers  
and their children!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my gift of:

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> _____   |

- My company will match my gift.  
 Please contact me about remembering BETA Center in my will.

**Mail completed form to:**

**BETA Center  
Development Office  
4680 Lake Underhill Road  
Orlando, FL 32807  
407-277-1942**

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NEWSQ1-09

# BETA'S PHOTO GALLERY

Diamonds & Deni  
Gala



Val & Jerry Demings, Stacey Gray, Peggy Bonnewitz,  
Liz High & MenA Bonnewitz



Child Development  
Center Volunteers  
and Staff with  
Mickey & Minnie  
Mouse



Jo Sciortino  
26 years

Volunteers  
Celebrate Their  
Longstanding  
Commitment To  
BETA Center



Norma Green  
30 years



Reading Is  
Fundamental  
Event at BETA



Volunteer  
Luncheon





4680 Lake Underhill Road  
Orlando, FL 32807

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Annual Report Sponsored By:



"BETA Center's mission is to give our community's children and parents the knowledge and support needed for strong and healthy families."

### BETA Center's Vision

Every child will experience the positive and nurturing parenting that is vital to his or her success.

### BETA Center's Core Values

- Respect every family's strengths
- Pledge to work in partnership with the people we serve
- Commit to helping clients find personal empowerment and self-sufficiency
- Celebrate the diversity of the community and staff
- Seek to be responsive to the needs of the community without duplicating services
- Measure the impact by achieving meaningful program outcomes