

EPIC Annual Report 2002



EPIC stands for
Enterprise for
Progress in the
Community



Working hand in hand with children, youth
and families, EPIC provides services
to strengthen communities

Many changes for EPIC in 2002



Ed Ferguson, EPIC
Executive Director



Rip Hollingbery,
Chair of the Board


EPIC served 3,500
children and youth
and 8,750 of their
family members in
2002 with programs
in nine Central
Washington counties



The year 2002 began with a lot of excitement at the grand opening of EPIC Place Phase II, bringing the total number of buildings now on the campus to seven. We also learned early in the year that EPIC would be the recipient of a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Technology Enriched Communities grant, adding state-of-the-art computer equipment to the learning lab in the new Jeld-Wen Discovery Center.

Next, we watched as our Secured Crisis Residential Centers were removed from the proposed state budget. These programs, which provide emergency shelter to runaway youth to protect them from the dangers of the streets, were eventually spared the budget ax, but there were many anxious moments waiting to see if these programs would be supported.

Our Early Childhood Education division served 1,700 children and 4,250 of their family members at sites from Bridgeport to Prosser. Our Migrant Head Start program got good marks in child development, care, and family involvement from federal reviewers.

In the fall, Sharing Horizons, our annual professional development conference, hosted 400 early childhood education professionals from throughout the region.

The Youth and Family Support Center opened for business in the Rotary Cottage at EPIC Place in September. An innovative approach--offer private mental health counselors the opportunity to practice in a beautiful new building, in trade for clinical hours. This makes the services of experienced youth and family counselors available to EPIC clients and others in need, and provides clinicians with lower overhead costs. The counselors staffing the Youth and Family Support Center were hand

2002 EPIC Board of Directors

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Executive Director

Rip Hollingbery,
Chair

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Director

selected for years of clinical experience, diversity in specialization, and their dedication to helping youth and families.

Frank Glaspey became the Executive Director of the new Central Washington Non-Profit Resource Center at EPIC Place in November 2002. The Center is designed to help local non-profits strengthen their capacity to provide services to people in need. The center accomplishes this through workshops, access to information, materials and more. The new Drop-In Youth Activity Center next door opened during the Christmas holidays, welcoming neighborhood kids in for a safe, supervised activity program and a chance to learn about computers (and maybe even "earn" one to take home) in the Learning Lab.

EPIC began to expand its utilization of volunteers, providing many gratifying experiences for those who donated their time and talents to help our programs serve clients.

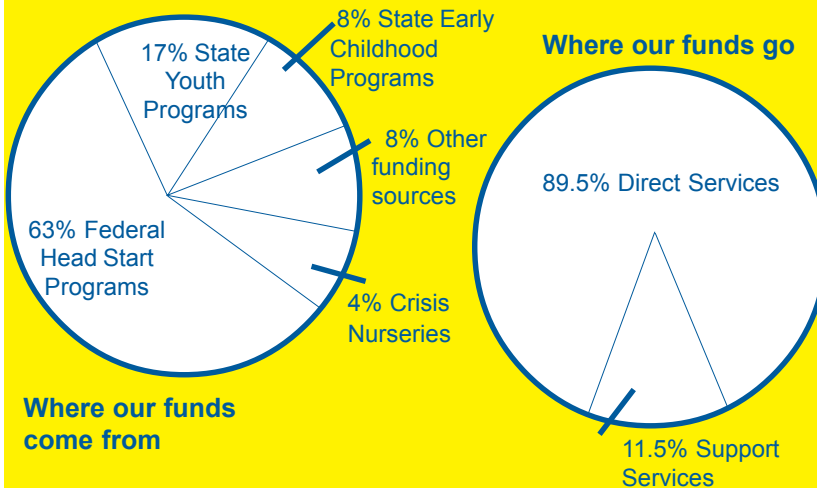
We also made an extra effort to raise public awareness of our Crisis Nurseries in Yakima and Toppenish and the work they do to prevent child abuse and neglect. This was done through a series of articles in the community newsletter, Family Ties, as well as making the nurseries the focus of the Playhouses on Parade event scheduled for spring 2003. Already, we are gratified by the support of the community for these important services.



EPIC employs 300 - 500 staff, depending on the season




EPIC annual operating budget \$18,500,000



2002 In Kind

Head Start & Early Head Start:	\$1,698,995
Migrant Head Start:	\$ 471,130
ECEAP:	\$ 82,000
TOTAL:	\$2,252,125


Thirty-three percent
of current EPIC
employees are past
Head Start parents



Early Childhood Education

Head Start is a comprehensive child development and preschool program serving low-income children from birth to age 5 and their families. The overall goal: increase school readiness.

Via Head Start programs, EPIC delivers a range of services appropriate to each family's heritage and experience that encompass all aspects of child development and learning. A Head Start provider since 1965, EPIC knows children learn better when their basic needs are met. Medical, dental, disability and other screenings are conducted, as well as getting the entire family involved in the education process. Parents are the child's first and best teachers--so we emphasize teaching parents how to reinforce lessons in the home.

In 2002, EPIC served 1,700 children, from Bridgeport to Prosser, through four types of Head Start (Early, Region, Migrant & Seasonal). Other Early Childhood programs at EPIC include the Washington State Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP); and the Crisis Nurseries in Yakima and Toppenish.

This year, the accomplishments of Early Childhood Education were many: in response to more families settling into Central Washington communities and fewer migrating, EPIC expanded its program for Seasonal Head Start and reduced its Migrant program numbers. We served as a national Head Start pilot for two initiatives in 2002, one focused on fatherhood and the other on youth. Our staff developed and piloted an oral health curriculum in conjunction with the Washington Dental Service Foundation, and we designed a transportation safety curriculum for preschoolers which was presented regionally. One of our teachers, Alice Saiz, received a national award for her outstanding work with children, and EPIC's Migrant Head Start received favorable marks from federal reviewers.

Services for At Risk Youth

In 2002, EPIC served nearly 1,000 youth through five programs in Central Washington, including: two Secured Crisis Residential Centers (Yakima, Kennewick), providing shelter and help for run-aways; two Regional Crisis Residential Centers, helping state dependent youth and those in protective custody; two behavioral rehabilitation programs (Mariposa, Serendipity), offering long-term residential care to state dependent youth; four proctor homes, therapeutic foster care for youth as their behavior stabilizes; and the new Youth and Family Support Center, an outpatient counseling program keeping families with teens intact while they work through their issues.

EPIC Place

EPIC Crisis Nursery

U.S. children are more likely to be victimized in their own homes than on the streets. Most children under age 5 who are victims of homicide are killed by their own parents. The EPIC Crisis Nurseries are designed to prevent child abuse by helping families at risk 24 hours per day through a combination day care and professional home care setting. EPIC operates two Crisis Nurseries (Yakima and Toppenish), which provide emergency respite care to community children up to age 5 whose parents and/or caregivers need a "time out" due to a crisis such as loss of a job, addiction, stress in parenting, serious health problems, or during drug and alcohol or other counseling. Crisis Nursery Day Treatment provides full mental health assessment, day treatment and referrals for abused/neglected children and their families. Yakima's facility relocated from Children's Village to EPIC Place in 2002.

Central Washington Non-Profit Resource Center

The Central Washington Non-Profit Resource Center, located at EPIC Place, opened for business in 2002. The Center assists non-profits in today's competitive world by providing resources that alone they could not access. This includes workshops, technical assistance, a resource library and database for grant research and writing, refurbished equipment, information networking and consultant pools, as well as computer classes in a state-of-the-art Learning Lab. The Center is a membership-based organization, offering discounted rates to member agencies.

Drop-In Youth Activity Center

The new Drop-In Youth Activity Center at EPIC Place provides a safe, supervised after-school activity and learning program for kids 6 to 14. Crafts, games, help with homework, and fun (of course) are always on the agenda. Participating youth can access computer classes next door, and if their families meet certain low-income guidelines, they may have an opportunity to "earn" a computer to take home by working educational hours in the Learning Lab.

Fireside Room

The Fireside Room is an attractive new meeting and conferencing facility located in the Jeld-Wen Discovery Center at EPIC Place.

(Continued, page 8)



EPIC employs a full-time Staff Development Coordinator to assist Early Childhood Education employees to pursue a college education



Frank Glaspey
Executive Director
Central Washington
Non-Profit Resource
Center



Chris Pecht
Youth Activity
Center Coordinator

World events prompt EPIC to look for creative funding ideas

New in '02: Playhouses on Parade




1,834 volunteers
donated more than
\$110,000 in time and
energy to EPIC
programs in 2002.
75% were parents of
EPIC clients



The year 2002 was challenging for non-profit fundraising. In the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy and the stock market decline, many foundations were forced to reduce or discontinue contributions. Many non-profits saw their revenue streams threatened if not downright eliminated in 2002, forcing small agencies to reduce needed services and discontinue programs, even laying off staff, as a result. This at a time when social services were more needed than ever--Washington was one of the states with the highest unemployment in the U.S. in 2002. Due to its primarily agricultural base, the Central Washington area served by EPIC faced even higher unemployment than the rest of the state.

The 2002 Washington State budget deficit threatened EPIC's Secured Crisis Residential Centers in Yakima and Kennewick. In the end, the legislature set protecting runaway teens as an important priority and this program was spared.

As a non-profit agency with a variety of programs and funding sources, EPIC fared better than many. However, the importance of continuing to find ways to diversify our revenue base was a priority in 2002.

That's how the EPIC Playhouses on Parade event was born. The concept was simple: get the community's most talented architects, builders, interior and landscape designers, wholesale suppliers and retail stores to design, build, furnish and landscape a "neighborhood" of dream playhouses for children and adults. Then, raffle the playhouses to the community and offer businesses the opportunity to be co-sponsors. The event, which has a proven track record of success in similar sized communities, is poised to become the perfect signature fundraising effort for an entity dedicated to helping children and families.

So the planning and recruiting of volunteers began. A goal was set, sponsorships began to sell, and the initial Playhouses on Parade campaign was launched. The committees outdid themselves to develop the dream houses, and arrangements were made to build the "neighborhood" in the year's hottest growth spot--The Valley Mall in Union Gap. The Playhouses on Parade will debut in spring 2003. Best of all, the proceeds will help EPIC Crisis Nurseries prevent child abuse and neglect--a worthy investment in any kind of marketplace.

EPIC Program Sites

Early Childhood Education

Early Head Start

Children's Village
(Yakima)
Bridgeport

Region Head Start

Castlevale (Yakima)
Children's Village
Fairview (Yakima)
Jefferson (Yakima)
Moxee
Parker Heights
Sunnyside
Tieton
Union Gap
Wide Hollow

Migrant/Seasonal Head Start


Applewood
(Wenatchee)
Bridgeport
Castlevale
East Wenatchee
Ellisforde
Parker Heights
Prosser
Sunnyside

Early Childhood Education Assis- tance Program (ECEAP)

Bridgeport
East Wenatchee
Fairview
Jefferson
Prosser

Crisis Nursery & Therapeutic Child Care

Toppenish
Yakima



EPIC is one of only 4
grantees in the nation
to operate all 4 Head
Start programs



At-Risk Youth Services

Regional Crisis

Residential Centers

Kennewick
Yakima

Secured Crisis

Residential Centers

Kennewick
Yakima

Youth and Family Support Center

EPIC Place
Yakima

Behavioral Rehab

Mariposa (for girls)
Serendipity (for boys)
Yakima

Therapeutic Foster Care Homes

(1) Sunnyside
(3) Yakima

EPIC Place Campus

Verbrugge-Douglas Cottage

EPIC Youth Services
Administration

Rotary Cottage

Youth & Family
Support Center

Schmidt Cottage

Mariposa

Riel House Cottage

Triumph Treatment

Jeld-Wen Cottage

Central Washington
Non-Profit Resource
Center

Drop-In Youth
Activity Center

EPIC Place
Learning Lab



Ellie Carrithers
Clinical Director
Youth and Family
Support Center



EPIC Place programs, continued from page 5

The Fireside Room was designed to address Yakima's shortage of meeting space. It can accommodate 81 for lunch and features a gas fireplace, handicapped accessibility, coffee service, audio visual equipment, access to the Learning Lab, and a kitchenette.

Youth and Family Support Center

Adolescence can be a difficult period in a person's life, and also a trying time for the entire family. Parents who are concerned about the challenges of raising a teenager in today's world now have a place to go for help in Yakima. The Youth and Family Support Center opened at EPIC Place in September 2002. The Youth and Family Support Center addresses family conflict, behavioral problems, trauma, divorce, depression, eating disorders, running away, substance abuse, grief/loss issues, and more. In addition to individual, group and family counseling, the Center offers educational forums, parenting education and skills workshops, and support groups for teens. All of the counselors are licensed by the state of Washington, and they average more than 15 years of experience supporting youth and families. The approach is innovative--EPIC offered free office space in trade for services, to increase access for clients and low-income people in the area.

Riel House

Triumph Treatment will be relocating their Riel House program to the EPIC Place campus in early 2003. This is a residential substance abuse treatment program for young pregnant and parenting moms and their children up to age 6. Construction of the cottage at EPIC Place was completed in 2002.

EPIC Administration

EPIC Central Office

2902 Castlevale
Road, Suite A
Yakima, WA
98909-0279

EPIC main switchboard: (509) 248-3950

Toll free: 1-800-748-8112

FAX: (509) 457-0580