



*I am ready for my family now.*

Ryther Child Center  
2009 Year in Review

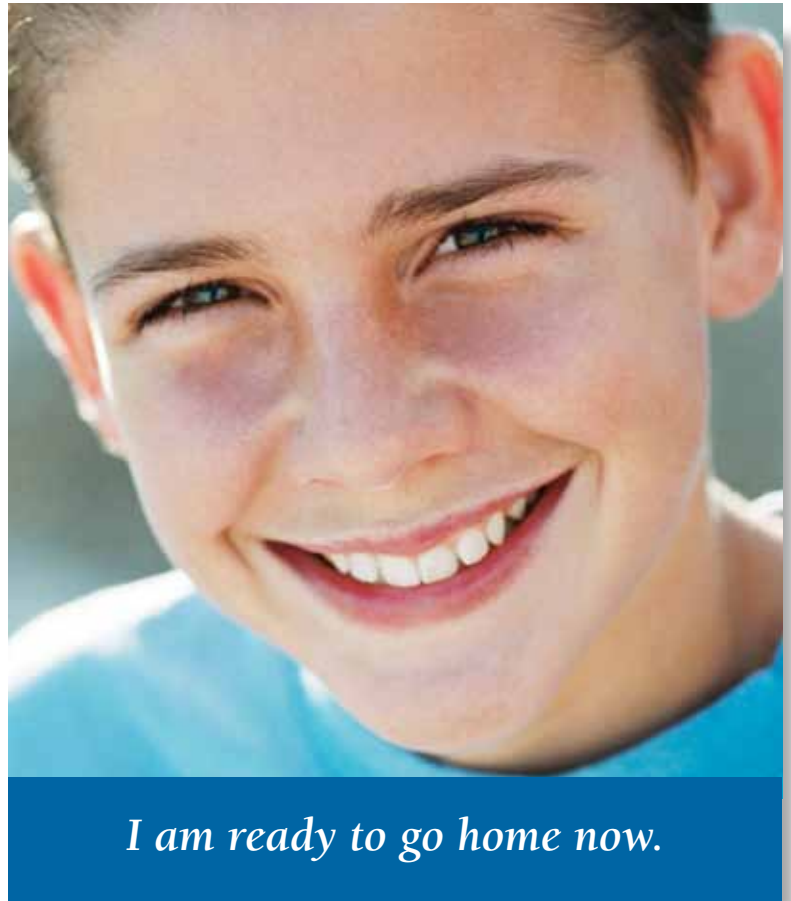
*Outpatient Mental Health Services • Teen Substance Abuse Treatment  
Sub-Acute Care • Therapeutic & Traditional Foster Care  
Family Preservation Services • Collaborative Coaching • Aspiring Youth*

Ryther Child Center is a recognized leader in behavioral health services for Washington state children and their families facing complex challenges. We are dedicated to providing comprehensive services and innovative treatments. We guide, coach and teach so that every child and family we work with may experience new ways of thinking, develop positive relationships, and realize a better life.

Founded in 1885, Ryther Child Center is one the region's most enduring nonprofit organizations serving vulnerable children and their families. As a thought-leader in our field, we evolved from the traditional orphanage model in the 1930s, and refocused our mission to treat troubled children using innovative and proven therapeutic techniques.

Today, we serve children and adolescents referred by parents, physicians, state agencies, courts, schools and other providers working with children. We have expanded our services to include programs and solutions for families with children who have challenges stemming from trauma, mental illness, substance abuse, Autism Spectrum Disorders or adjustment issues with school, peers or parents.

Ryther Child Center is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc., and maintains memberships in the Alliance for Children and Families, Association of Addiction Providers (Washington State), Washington State Coalition for Children in Care, and Washington Community Mental Health Council. Ryther Child Center is a United Way of King County grantee agency and registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt organization having 501(c) (3) status.



*I am ready to go home now.*



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

2400 NE 95th Street, Seattle, WA 98115

206.525.5050



*I am ready to move on.*

## *Message from Ryther Child Center Leadership*

2009 will be viewed as a landmark year for the field of children's services and for Ryther. Because of the State's budget crisis and subsequent funding cuts, Ryther closed two cottages and exited one program developed and implemented at the State's request. As dramatic as these cuts were (a reduction of about 43 staff positions out of 176) it was not known at the time whether the cuts would be sufficient. Fortunately, no additional reductions were necessary, and we found economic uses for the facilities that we vacated. The end result was that we finished 2009 in the black and with a good deal of determination to succeed in what has become a rapidly changing environment.



*I am ready to stay clean & sober.*

2009 saw passage of landmark legislation calling for the Washington Department of Social and Health Services to move its child welfare services to performance based contracts and with private providers. In addition to creating a Statewide Design Committee assigned the task to devise two demonstration projects, the legislature also decided to push the issue by requiring the Children's Administration to implement performance based contracting much more quickly and to reduce the number of contracts it maintains. Performance Based Contracting as it has been described so far is a euphemism for managed care and will supposedly be installed as a first phase of a longer process by the end of 2010.

Fortunately, Ryther devoted 2009 to reconfiguring current services and developing new programs and support structures to be prepared to function in just such an environment. Ryther line and supervisory staff has taken the lead in designing new ways to serve more clients more effectively and in less time. In the end, 2009 may have begun in a rough patch, but that roughness allowed us to gain purchase on our climb to a more successful and relevant Ryther.

Lee Grogg  
Executive Director/CEO



*I am ready for my family now.*

During these times of uncertainty and challenges, the Board of Trustees would like to pass along its deep appreciation to all of you – to the many organizations and individuals that supported Ryther in 2009 and to the Ryther League. Our infinite gratitude goes out to all League members who give their talent, time and treasure to the children at Ryther. Thank you, Ryther Staff. You have a singular perspective because you witness progress, setbacks and triumphs on a daily basis. Your hard work, compassion and training are essential to our success. Ryther is dedicated to staying the course during these trying times and, with your help, we will continue to give each and every child and family with whom we work a chance for a better life.

David Herr  
President of the 2009 Ryther Board of Trustees



*My mom's ready to care for me now.*

## 2009 Highlights

- » **The Family Center** opened with the conversion of three offices into overnight accommodations for parents and caregivers who visit their children in the Sub-Acute Care Program. During these visits, Ryther staff provide parent coaching to help them with their child's evening and morning routines and also prepare the way for a smooth transition into a family home.
- » **Ryther's new 360 Solutions model for children and families** provides a new "Four-track System," guiding treatment for children in the Sub-Acute Care Program along one of four paths: reunification with family; alternative permanency (therapeutic foster/adoptive home); stabilization and transition to or from hospitalization; or independent living.
- » **Ryther's Therapeutic Family Care Program** grew substantially, with the number of foster homes increasing from 13 to 20 and children served expanding from 20 to 29.
- » **The King County Department of Mental Health** honored Ryther's inpatient treatment program staff for their work with substance-abusing teens. This annual Exemplary Service Award recognizes exceptional members of the helping profession. Positive outcomes included an excellent graduation rate of 73%.
- » **Family Preservation Services** substantially increased numbers of families served, with 260 family members receiving ongoing in-home support to improve child safety or help with a child's transition home after foster care.
- » **NAIOP**, Commercial Real Estate Development Association, held its annual Community Enhancement Project at Ryther with over 340 volunteers from dozens of NAIOP companies. Volunteers installed and updated walking paths, added and enhanced garden areas, constructed fencing and new Challenge Course stations, painted exteriors of the cottages and improved landscaping throughout campus.
- » **Ryther joined the Alliance for Children and Families**, a national organization that provides services to nonprofit child and family-serving organizations.
- » **The Gary Lange Fund for Education and Care Advancement**, through Ryther, distributed more than \$10,885 to staff for educational and training opportunities.
- » **New Windows for Ryther's K-8 school** were installed with donations from Washington Energy Services, Jacquie and Michael Casey and a grant from the Murdock Trust. Students and teachers are now more comfortable, less distracted by outside noise and safer.
- » **Evaluation and Selection of an electronic records system** for more efficient management of clinical records and outcomes tracking was undertaken, with implementation in fall of 2010.
- » **The Meridian Group** was created to provide counselors and therapists short-term office space on a low-cost basis.



*I am ready to learn now.*



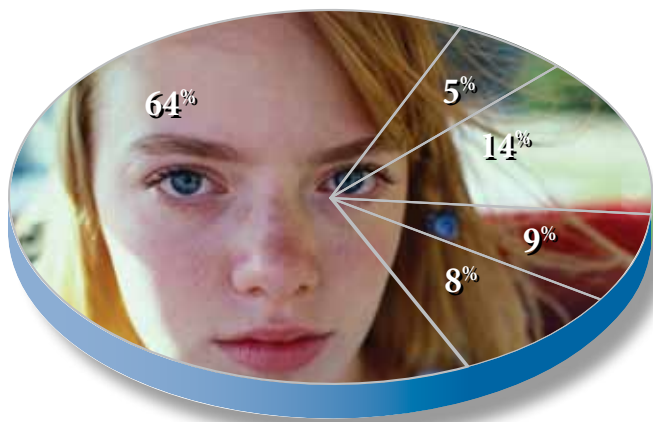
*I am ready to make friends.*



*My dad is ready to love me.*



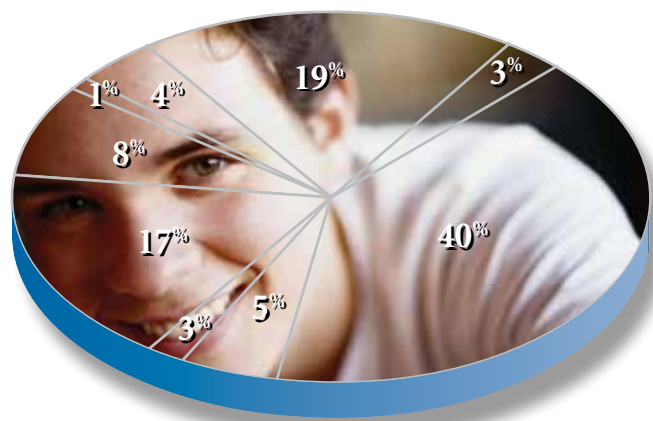
*My brother is ready to live with me.*



**Total Public Support & Revenues**

14% Donations, Ryther Child Center League, Special Events, Endowment Income.....	\$1,206,629
8% Program Service Fees .....	\$691,454
9% United Way of King County & Other United Way .....	\$767,898
64% State Reimbursements, Grants & Contracts.....	\$5,518,965
5% Investment Income & Others .....	\$485,976

**Total Revenues & Public Support ..... \$8,670,922**



**Expenditures**

40% Sub-Acute Care.....	\$3,492,969
5% Mental Health Outpatient.....	\$431,727
3% Collaborative Coaching.....	\$209,827
17% Adolescent Chemical Dependency Inpatient.....	\$1,457,437
8% Therapeutic Family Foster Care & Temporary Receiving Home.....	\$672,502
1% Reach-First/Parent Child Visitation .....	\$100,419
4% Family Preservation/Family Centered.....	\$319,892
19% Management & General .....	\$1,682,602
3% Fundraising .....	\$291,681

**Expenditures Total..... \$8,659,056**



*I am ready to go home now.*

**Children and Families Served**

	<u>Clients Served</u>	<u>Days of Care</u>
Sub-Acute Care Program (ages 6–12) .....	79	12,806
Inpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment .....	132	4,336

<u>Other Programs</u>	<u>Clients Served</u>	<u>Other Programs</u>	<u>Clients Served</u>
Outpatient Services .....	644	Collaborative Coaching .....	88
Group Care Enhancement.....	640	Outdoor Leadership .....	74
Therapeutic Family Care .....	29	Family Preservation Services ...	260
REACH First .....	25	Parent Child Visitation .....	25

The 2009 financial records of Ryther Child Center were audited by Vine Dahlen PLLC and conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Copies of the report are available upon request by calling Ryther Child Center at 206.525.5050.

## Ryther's Programs

### Professional, Caring & Comprehensive

We deliver professional, caring and comprehensive services so that every child and family we work with may realize a better life.

**REACH First** (Ryther Early Assessment for Children) is for children for whom family reunification is the goal. Thorough assessments help clarify the family's strengths in caring for the child and areas where it may need additional support and assistance.

**The Sub-Acute Care Program** provides intensive treatment 24/7 for children ages 6–12 with significant histories of abuse and neglect and resultant behavioral and emotional challenges. Our multidisciplinary team includes full time psychiatry, psychology, case management and therapy provided by Master's level clinicians. Compassionate counselors maintain a predictable and nurturing environment. Most children attend Ryther's on-campus K-8 school and enjoy appropriate outings and activities. After treatment, children transition to a less restrictive setting, including Ryther's own therapeutic foster care.

**Therapeutic Family Care** recruits, licenses, trains, places and supports Ryther's foster homes and caregivers. Our foster parents are part of a professional team that work to reunify children with their birth families if that is the case plan. When reunification is not an option, children are served in our therapeutic and traditional foster homes that offer longer-term placements and specialized treatment with the goal of permanency for the child.

**Family Preservation Services** is short term, family-focused and community-based, helping families referred by Children's Administration cope with stresses that interfere with their ability to care for their children. Our therapists work in clients' homes so that children can be maintained safely with their families or reunified with them after out-of-home care. Ryther also provides assessments to clarify issues and appropriately target services.

**Parent Child Visitation** provides supervised visitation for children in foster care for regularly scheduled meetings with biological families.

### Teen Substance Abuse

Ryther provides a broad array of programs designed to address the individual needs of adolescents using drugs and/or alcohol and their families, as well as those with co-occurring mental health issues.

Services include Targeted Assessments for Teen Substance Abuse, Level 1 Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment and, new in 2010, the Ryther Adolescent Program for adolescents and young adults with substance use and mental health issues. This program is designed based on the latest research to identify and treat depression, anxiety and ADHD in adolescents with substance use.

**Adolescent Substance Abuse Inpatient Treatment Program** works effectively with teens who have not been successful in other programs in a home-like environment, with play fields, covered sports complex, rock climbing wall and Challenge Course. Our treatment program is designed specifically for adolescent boys with substance abuse and a mental health issue. Comprehensive family involvement includes weekly visitation, family counseling, monthly Family Day programs, and other support provided by Master's level case managers and therapists.

**Group Care Enhancement** provides teen substance abuse specialists to local agencies working with drug-impacted youth.

### Therapy, Coaching & Support

**Outpatient Mental Health Services** serves children, birth through 19 years of age and their families to stabilize and improve interactions and communications in family and community relationships. Our team of licensed and credentialed Master's level therapists is trained in one or more evidence-based practice, such as Trauma Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy.

**Collaborative Coaching** is for teens and young adults experiencing emotional, academic and behavioral struggles. Master's level mentors go to the family's community to establish rapport and help the young person find his or her path to a more emotionally and physically healthy life. Concurrently, we provide families with strategies and support through parent coaching, solutions-focused family meetings and parent groups.

**Aspiring Youth** provides innovative support to children, adolescents and young adults with Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD, learning disabilities and similar traits. Programs include: Summer Outdoor Leadership camp sessions for children, teens and youth, Delphi Summer Internship, Social Skills Group, Individual Coaching and Young Adult Transition support.

☺ *Thank you, 2009 Volunteers!*

You're all part of a dynamic family focused on helping vulnerable children and their families. Your contribution makes our innovative therapies, treatments and training possible. Your wisdom and energy expand our horizons and propel us forward. You are invaluable.

☺ *The Ryther Child Center League*

Since 1937, the Ryther Child Center League has supported Ryther through fundraising, volunteer work and financial donations. Members come from all walks of life and form friendships that span decades in the desire to help improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families. From the all-League "Hearts for Hope" event, volunteer run R-Shoppe to the Magnolia Garden Party, Whidbey Bash, Sips & Shoes Wine Tasting and Bingo de Mayo events, to creating quilts for Ryther's children, orchestrating plant sales and providing cookies and birthday cakes as well as items for the Holiday Store so that children can "buy" gifts for the ones in their lives, the League inspires the staff and children each day to do the hard work of healing.



NAIOP Community Enhancement Project September 2009 brought 345 volunteers for projects ranging from parking lot improvements, painting the school to building new Challenge Course stations.

☺ *Ryther Volunteers*

Whether Best Buddy, Cottage Volunteer or workplace volunteer to improve our Lake City campus, staff and children understand that time is the greatest gift a caring adult can provide. In all, there were 606 volunteers in 2009, contributing a combined total of 4,863 hours. To all of our volunteers, please know that you've made a tremendous difference – a difference that these children and teens won't forget as they heal and move on to a better life. Many thanks to organizations that improved our campus: The Boeing Company, Coinstar, Hines, Milliman, Inc., Redmond Athletic Club, Starbucks Coffee Company, Unum Insurance Company, Wabash College, Washington Holdings and Windermere Real Estate Services. We would like to acknowledge our Best Buddies, Spirituality Program, Special Activities and Cottage Volunteers listed below:

**VOLUNTEERS**

Kitty Aggen	Allan & Valerie Crouch	Robert Hindman	Lanie Meriwether	Erik Steinfeld
Marion Baer	Laurie Daiger	Elyne Horton	Jo Merrick	Chelsea Stewart
Derrick Bates	Kris Delaney	Beth Huppin	Howard Miller	Starla Stroh
Kieu Benjamin	Andrew Doggett	Norma Jenner	Carrie Montag	Fritz Tarrach
Penny & Richard Borish	Kate Estefani	Adam Knight	Steffi & Colter Mott	Robin Tatsuda
Patrick Broadgate	Judy Fihn	Knights of Columbus	Stephanie Neff	Megan Tebay
Cara Bucciferro	Robert Flajole	Victoria Kohan	Amber Nesper	Temple Beth Am
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☺ *In Memoriam*

Mike Becker	Grace Ferren	Jimmy Olson	Betty Jean Rosemeyer	Helen Van Hollebeke
Kay Breene	Carol Jacobson	Margaret Pease	Ellen Scheyer	Virginia Zoe Van Ness
Ray Burlingame	Andrea Knowles	Harry Pryde	Denise Schramke	Margaret Vanni
K. Chorlton	Gary Lange	Aggie Pulliam	Gordon Sherwood	Clifford Wiley
Wallace Coburn	Jennifer Linehan	John W. Rankin	Bette Simpson Bradley	Helen Wilhoit
Thelma Gray Davis	Michael Moline	Rien Ratanasopa	Ilene Taylor	Barbara Wyman
Jean Douglas	Isabella Nolin	Lorraine Rickett	Jim Upjohn	

☺ *Thank you for Showing Up for Kids at our 17th annual fundraising luncheon.*

*Over \$144,000 was raised for Ryther's programs to help children and families heal from abuse, neglect, mental illness and chemical dependency. Thank you to William H. Gates Sr., Keynote Speaker and to Jean Enersen, King 5 News Anchor and Mistress of Ceremonies.*



**Thank You 2009 Luncheon Sponsors For Your Support.**

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☺ *Ryther Child Center thanks all of its donors who provided support in 2009 through personal and workplace contributions as well as in-kind donations.*

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