Partnerships

As a community, we are better when we collaborate. Operation Fresh Start partners with over 20 different nonprofit agencies in the area to strengthen our impact and avoid duplication of services. In this way, we are good stewards of the community’s resources. Some 2014-2015 partnership highlights include:

Image 1: Madison Audubon Society - Youth Conservation Crews participated in a 5-week Conservation Academy where they gained inspiration and learned skills necessary to enter the conservation workforce.

Image 2: Heartland Farm Sanctuary - Youth Construction Crews did extensive improvements to the facilities at Heartland Farm Sanctuary. At the same time they learned about rescued animals living there.

Image 3: Patrick Marsh - OFS crews removed invasive plants from the Patrick Marsh in Sun Prairie. Two crews then partnered with Natural Heritage Land Trust and Sun Prairie Rotary to build a viewing platform, designed in the shape of a bird in flight.

Image 4: WI Partnership for Housing Development - Our longstanding relationship with the Housing Partnership continues to give valuable work experience to OFS youth, while resulting in affordable homes for our community.

www.operationfreshstart.org
608-244-4721
From the Executive Director

This annual report will give you the facts about the year we recently completed here at Operation Fresh Start. One fact is that we served more youth this year than in any of our previous forty-five. Another fact is that the youth that come here are the statistics behind Madison’s achievement gap and Dane County’s racial equity issue. What facts are never able to show is the hope and dedication that is core to the Fresh Start ideal. I see the hope in the young 19 year-old woman who wakes at 5:30 AM to get her child to daycare and herself to Operation Fresh Start by 8:00 AM. I am honored she puts that trust in us. I see that dedication mirrored in the couple that is working tirelessly on the Building Futures Campaign to build a new home for Operation Fresh Start where we will be able to serve twice as many youth. Over the last year, I have had the good fortune of seeing both of these stories unfold and I am grateful to be part of this wonderful organization doing important work now, and at the precipice of doing even more.

Thank you to everyone for being part of this great Operation Fresh Start movement.

Gregory Markle, Executive Director

Board of Directors

Steve Hartley, President
Laura Jaggi, Vice President
Cindy Meicher Hasenfratz, Treasurer
Judith Wilcox, Secretary
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Brenda Brown
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Erica Nelson
Mitchell R. Olson
Mark Schneider
David Worzala

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Combined Funders & Partners List 10/1/14-9/30/15

THANK YOU to the individuals, businesses, foundations, and agencies who have donated either $250 or higher to either our Operating Budget or Capital Campaign. We wish we could list all of our supporters, but there simply isn’t space. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL PARTNERS WHO MAKE OUR MISSION POSSIBLE.


At this time, we are not listing individual donors, with the exception of Merrill Lynch Grand Gala Table sponsors. Is this something that’s important to you? If so, please let us know. We want to hear from you!
Program Highlights 10/1/14 - 9/30/15

Our Mission: Operation Fresh Start provides disconnected youth a path to self-sufficiency.

In our **Options Program**, funded by the City of Madison Community Development Division, we reached out to youth who had dropped out of Madison Metropolitan School District high schools. Through this personalized interaction with youth, we were able to:
- Assist 57 youth in reenrolling and earning diplomas
- Assist one youth in reenrolling and earning a HSED/GED
- Guide 85 youth as they reenrolled in high school after having dropped out.

In our **Pathways Program**, 151 youth worked toward gaining their high school diplomas, while gaining invaluable work experience through either construction or conservation service. Approximately 45% of these youth came with a history of interaction with law enforcement. The recidivism rate for Pathways Program participants referred from corrections is 13%, compared to a 54% rate for parolees who don’t get a Fresh Start. Funding from United Way of Dane County specifically made programming for this population possible.

In our **Graduate Crew Program** we partnered with J.H. Findorff & Son through a Fast Forward Grant from the Department of Workforce Development. This partnership has led to apprenticeships in the trades with an average starting wage of $16 per hour. Graduate Crew is currently available for hire. Working with our professional contractor and advanced youth construction crew helps to provide a bridge to placement in registered apprenticeships. This advanced training platform leads to careers in carpentry, plumbing, ironwork, sheet metal work, construction and more.

Through funding from Dane County FSET, we were able to establish our **Transitions Program**, giving focused attention to what happens after a young person’s time in high school. Transitions Staff help to connect youth to employment and opportunities in post-secondary education. Some early successes included:
- Expanding our participants’ access to post-secondary education
- Development of a hiring and mentoring partnership with NARI (National Association of the Remodeling Industry)
- Partnership with Kids Code Madison, to develop coding opportunities for our youth

Youth in our Pathways Program built or renovated five affordable houses from 10/1/14—9/30/15.

In Madison: 1850 Boyd Ave, 2100 E. Johnson St, 1933 Vondron Rd

In Sun Prairie: 237 & 239 Sweet Grass Drive

In Conservation, youth in our Pathways Program improved 52.52 miles of trails and waterways on public lands & 139.5 acres of parks and public lands.

**Pathways Participants:**
- **Age Range:** 16—24
- **Female:** 16%
- **Male:** 84%
- **Black/African American:** 49.7%
- **White/Caucasian:** 27.8%
- **Multiracial:** 14.6%
- **Hispanic/Latino:** 4.6%
- **Asian:** 2.0%
- **Native American:** 1.3%

In ’14 -’15, 288 total youth and young adults were served by Operation Fresh Start’s programs.
Lynn Wood of Wood Communications donated significant hours to lead our organization in a rebranding process. Through focus groups of youth, staff, board members, donors and externals we fleshed out what a new logo needs to represent. From these discussions (and many revisions), a new logo was formed to take us into the next 45 years of service.

A New Logo to Take Us into the Next 45 Years

Building Futures Capital Campaign Launched

On May 1st, 2015 at the 9th Annual Merrill Lynch Grand Gala, we launched our Building Futures Campaign. The community came together and we raised $1,182,460 towards our 4.5 million dollar campaign. Our Capital Campaign Cabinet includes: Campaign Chairs – Lau & Bea Christensen, Betty Harris Custer, Jonathan DeSalvo, Eve Galanter, David Lehrer, Gregory Markle, Jill W. Pfeiffer, Louise Roell-Robbins, Kathy Switzky, Jim Sykes and David Worzala. We’d welcome your involvement in the Building Futures Campaign.

The August Foundation, J.H Findorff & Son, Inc., National Guardian Life Insurance, Dan and Patti Rashke (TASC) Foundation. We are grateful!

For 45 years, Operation Fresh Start has given over 7,000 disconnected youth a second chance in life by building a path forward to self-sufficiency. Now it is time to prepare for the next 45 years.

The Building Futures Campaign will build a cost-effective learning and training center to serve twice as many youth annually. In Dane County, nearly 3,000 youth (between the ages of 16-24) are out of school and jobless. Every year, though, we turn away about 100 youth due to space and programmatic constraints and turn down opportunities to develop innovative new programming due to space constraints. Through the Building Futures Campaign we are asking our community to come together and help us transform more lives and give more second chances!

Learn more at www.operationfreshstart.org/buildingfutures

Financials

Actual 10/1/2014 to 9/30/2015 (Pre-Audit Numbers)

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<th>Income</th>
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<td>Private Donations</td>
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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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| Excess (Deficit) | 66,392 |

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<td>Total Assets</td>
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<th>Liabilities/Net Assets</th>
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<td>Total Liabilities/Net Assets</td>
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Campaign Budget

- Acquisition $2,100,000
- Construction Costs* $1,070,000
- Program Growth Funds $250,000
- Campaign Costs $680,000
- Equipment and Furnishings $400,000

*Through OFS youth and community volunteer participation we will save over $500,000 in construction costs.