



# OBERLIN COMMUNITY SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT 1997-98

Oberlin Community Services, now entering its 43rd year, last year carried out its important social services from temporary quarters for the first time. Those services range from surplus food distribution to planning for tutoring in the public schools. The site on South Main Street is also a hive of activity for other projects: it is a locale for a variety of meetings, for giving flu shots, for t'ai chi classes and is used as a place of worship. For such a busy place, we have found time to develop a new logo with an umbrella symbolizing our inclusive care for the community.

Although the rented site has served adequately, it will not last and we need a good permanent place for our work. Concerted efforts by a citizen group during the past year did not produce a new site. This challenge remains for us.

The major programs of the agency are Emergency Assistance for low-income persons and Math Tutoring for public school youth. These programs involve collaboration with many local and county organizations. OCSC also supplies office space and serves as fiscal agent for the Oberlin Interagency Council. Furthermore, it serves as an umbrella for grassroots groups such as Community Mediation and Academic Boosters.

Financial support for agency operations comes from a variety of public and private sources. United Way of Greater Lorain County provides major funding for our programs. The breadth and depth of services offered could not be maintained, however, without additional contributions. Second Harvest Food Bank supplies an extensive amount of food. The Oberlin Area Cooperating Ministries created the "Churches Helping Others" Fund for emergency assistance. The Rotary Club established an emergency fund over the past year. The continuing financial support of the many groups, churches, and individuals shows their concern about the welfare of all members of the Oberlin community. Our gratitude goes to all of them.

The Board of Directors wishes once again to express its deep appreciation to the staff, the college work-study students, and the many faithful volunteers whose dedicated efforts have made it possible to provide these services.

## BOARD

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Executive Director

Ann Longsworth Orr,  
Daniel Longsworth Orr,  
Client Services Coordinators

Annemarie Helm, Director,  
Oberlin Interagency Council

### **Oberlin College Student Workers:**

Nicole Craig, Holly Darling, Allison Duwe,  
Elizabeth Echlin, Rachel Fessenden, Patricia  
Hehir, Danielle Hirsch, Jake Leos-Urbel,  
Marilou Marcelo, Samantha Morse, Sara Nemitz,  
Pam Parsa, Gabrielle Peregoux, Luke Shaefer,  
Emily Silverman, Gladys Springborn, Melissa  
Wright, Wynne Wu.

### **Oberlin Community Services**

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## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REPORT

Oberlin Community Services is a responsive community based organization which helps residents of Oberlin and Southern Lorain County meet their basic needs. The Client Services Coordinator assesses the client's situation and decides how we can help. If we cannot assist the client at OCSC, we will make referrals to another agency.

OCSC's food program consists of daily emergency food assistance and monthly mass distribution of government surplus commodities. Food for the emergency packages is furnished by the Second Harvest Food Bank in Lorain, and through donations from churches, organizations, families, and individuals. Clients may receive emergency food up to five times in a year, and government surplus food twelve times in a year.

In addition to food assistance, OCSC assists eligible residents in paying heat or electric bills to avert utility disconnections. Support for utility assistance is provided by the F.E.M.A. (Federal Emergency Management Agency), the City Caring Fund, the "Churches Helping Others" and Rotary Funds, and the Salvation Army.

OCSC distributes a limited number of vouchers for public transportation and gasoline. They are available to clients for medical, legal, job interview, or social service appointments.

OCSC loans wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers, child safety seats, strollers, and other medical equipment to Oberlin residents. The

equipment is donated or purchased for use in the program. Residents may borrow an item for up to three months.

OCSC determines eligibility for the American Red Cross prescription assistance program. OCSC also coordinates Meals on Wheels, a collaborative project with Allen Memorial Hospital. Meals on Wheels, currently in its twenty-sixth year, provides a healthy alternative for residents who cannot shop or cook on their own.

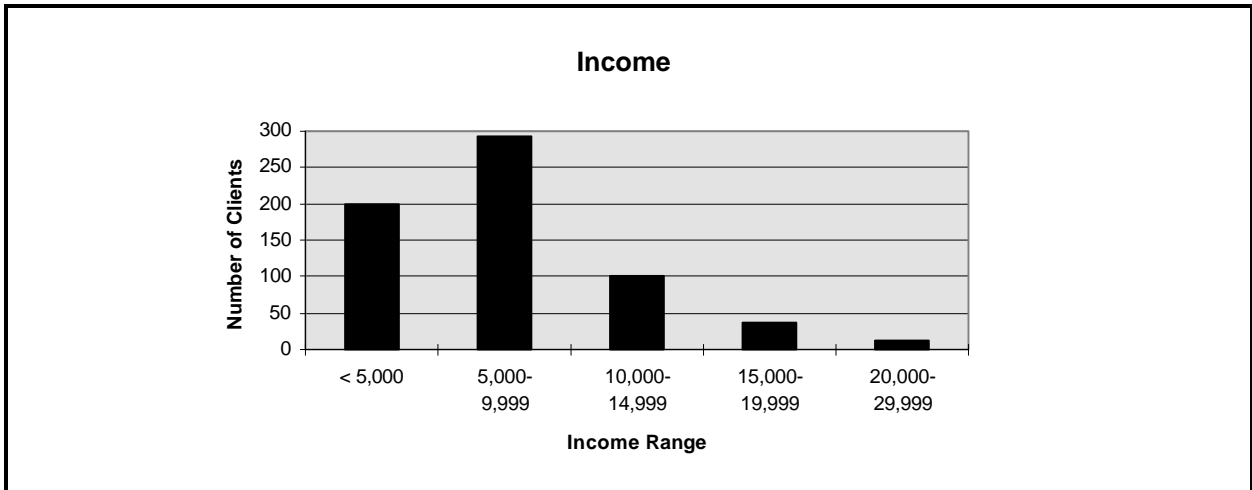
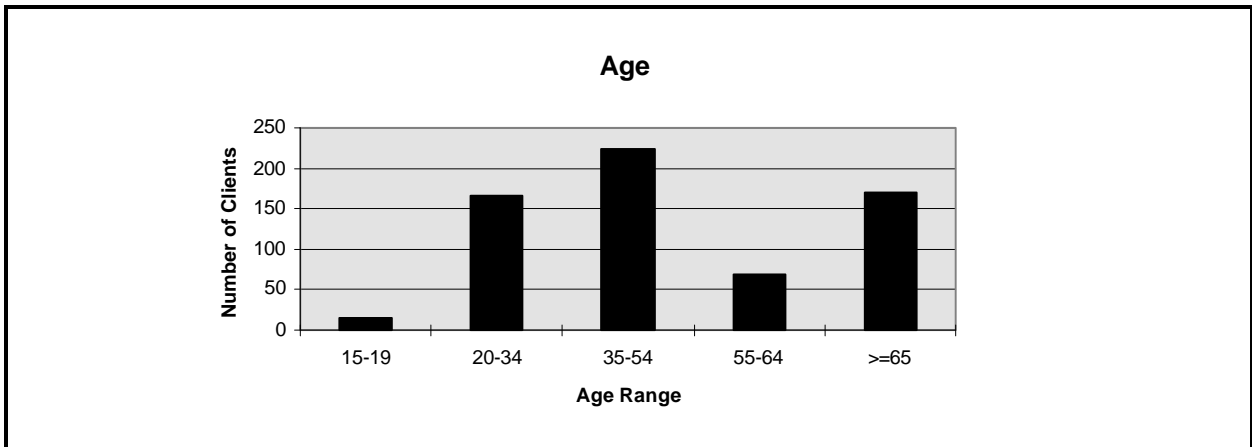
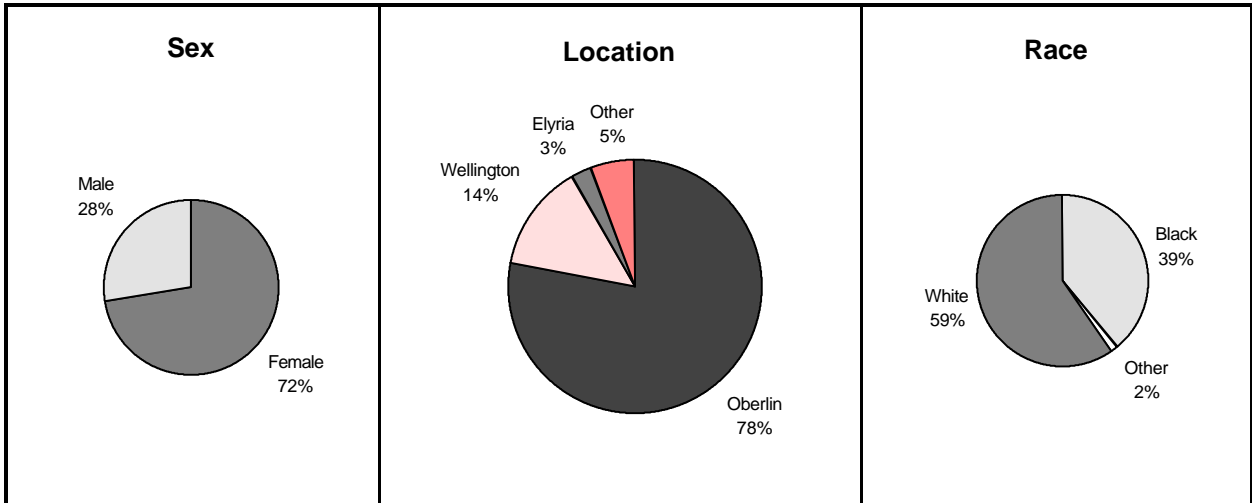
During our annual holiday food program, OCSC provided assistance to 595 Oberlinians: 137 families (including 258 children) and 115 single people. Over 100 volunteers helped agency staff with sorting 12 tons of food and packing 700 bags. Food bags filled with canned and dried goods, government surplus commodities, and two chickens were distributed to families based on household size. The Food Bank provided 515 chickens and a basic food bag through special funding from the Burger King/WOBL "Holiday Cheer" Program. Extra items were provided through donations to the agency.

OCSC coordinated a holiday adoption program in which 21 groups and individuals supplied 47 families with toys, clothing, and food that met their specific needs. We also served as a clearinghouse for donations from various community groups, churches, and individuals who provided clothing, toys, books, and food vouchers.

### DISTRIBUTION STATISTICS 1997-98

|                           |               |                        |     |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----|
| <b>BOXED FOOD:</b>        |               | <b>OTHER SERVICES:</b> |     |
| # Assistances             | 802           | Utility payments       | 106 |
| # Individuals             | 2,024         | Gasoline/Bus Tickets   | 92  |
| # Bags                    | 2,488         | Housing payments       | 7   |
| <b>MASS DISTRIBUTION:</b> |               | Prescriptions          | 41  |
| # Assistances             | 2,381         | Formula/diapers        | 110 |
| <b>TOTAL LBS. OF FOOD</b> | <b>81,275</b> | Taxables/Miscellaneous | 248 |

**CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**1997-98**



## MEALS ON WHEELS REPORT

The Meals on Wheels program has been serving the Oberlin community continuously since 1973. Volunteers deliver hot or cold meals each day, including Christmas, to those who cannot shop or cook on their own. About 30 people receive meals each day with some daily fluctuation. The service has proven to be especially important to elderly Oberlin residents. As the number of senior citizens in the population increases, so does participation in the program.

The food is provided by Allen Memorial Hospital with the help of hospital staff members Sharon Bailey and Mary Ann Dietrick. Meals can be prepared according to dietary restrictions or under the supervision of a dietitian or physician.

Hot meals cost \$2.25; cold meals, \$1.25. These fees cover only the cost of food. We rely on individuals and businesses to donate packaging materials, labor, and gasoline so we can keep the meals affordable to the many who are on fixed incomes. The volunteer drivers have delivered 11,384 nutritionally balanced meals to over 100 Oberlinians in the past twelve months.

Volunteer Coordinators Mary Carlson and Chrissa Clark recruit and organize more than 40 drivers. We owe the program's success to those who volunteer their time, energy, gasoline, and friendly concern to see that their neighbors have nutritious, appropriate, and delicious food daily.

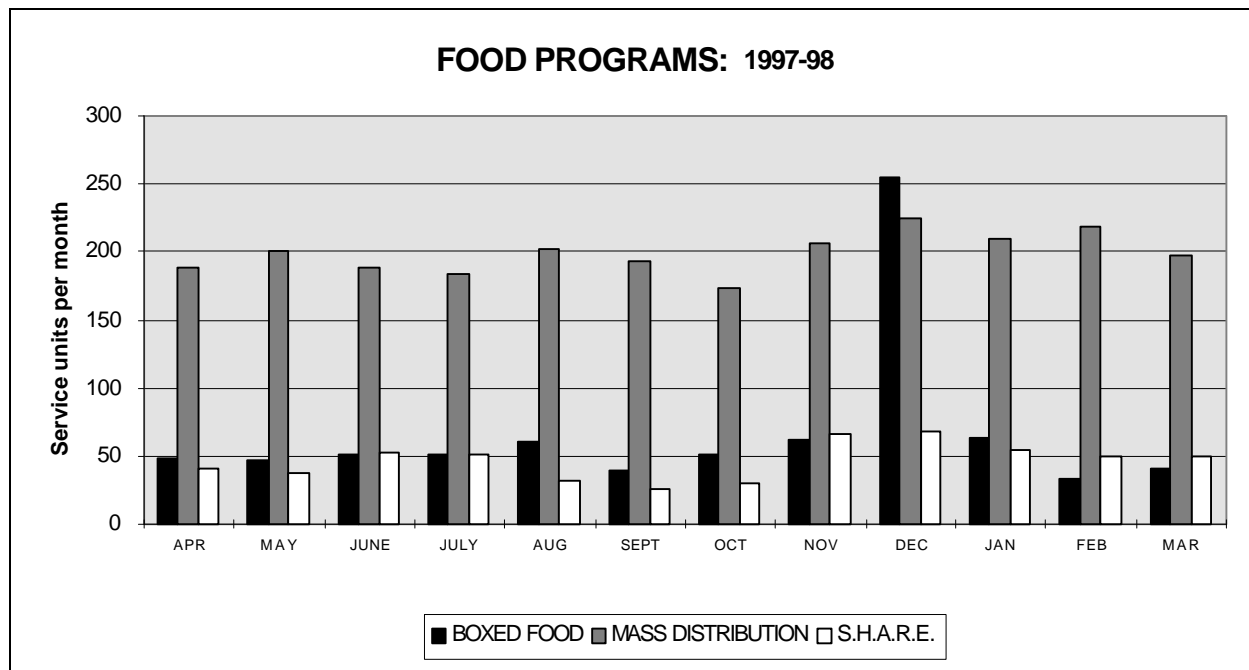
## S.H.A.R.E. REPORT

S.H.A.R.E. (Self-Help And Resource Exchange) is a nationwide community development organization that began in San Diego in 1983. Oberlin Community Services, in collaboration with Christ Temple Apostolic Church, joined this exciting program as a host site in September 1995.

Participants in S.H.A.R.E. pledge to perform at least two hours of community service. In exchange for their service, participants receive a \$30-\$35 grocery package for only \$14. A grant from Nordson Corporation helps to defray the transportation costs. Since there are no eligibility requirements for S.H.A.R.E., the program is open to people of all income levels.

S.H.A.R.E. combines community service with smart shopping by pooling participants' money to purchase foods at wholesale prices directly from manufacturers. The savings are passed directly to participants who fulfill their community service pledge. Each grocery package contains meat, fresh fruits, vegetables, and several staple items such as potatoes, pasta, or rice. The package is designed to supplement a family's food budget at prices 60% lower than retail prices.

The program continues to be well-received in Oberlin. Participants in Oberlin ordered 659 packages and volunteered a total of 4,588 hours over the past year.



## **TUTORING REPORT**

In 1992 Oberlin Community Services began an ongoing collaboration with the Oberlin School District to provide high-quality math tutoring services to both high school and elementary school students.

High school summer tutoring offers help to teenagers preparing for the Ninth Grade Proficiency Test. OCSC organizes a three-week workshop for students who have failed the math portion of the exam. All Ohio students must pass this test in order to receive a high school diploma. Since 1996, students have had the opportunity to retake the test for credit after the three-week session. In 1997, 21 tutors, consisting of community volunteers, OCSC staff, and Oberlin College students, instructed 36 high school students. 42% of these students, some of whom had failed the state proficiency test multiple times, passed it at the end of the workshop.

OCSC also sponsors an after-school tutoring program for fourth-graders at Prospect School. It not only prepares students for the Fourth Grade Proficiency Test and intervenes to prevent future math difficulties but also encourages students to be more active in their community. In addition to basic arithmetic, this year's tutoring program also gave instruction in citizenship.



The after-school program is funded by a "Learn and Serve America" grant from the Ohio Department of Education. It integrates math and citizenship tutoring with community service in an attempt to expose students to "service-learning," a teaching method that stresses both hands-on, experiential learning and traditional, in-class learning. The Oberlin School District has begun to implement service-learning programs influenced by our example.

The unique aspect of our Prospect School program is its community service component. Students are encouraged to organize and carry out collaborative service projects which complement their in-class learning. For example, the fourth-graders planned a school-wide food drive, creating posters as well as collecting, counting, and sorting the donated goods. They also visited the Oberlin Community Services Center to pack food bags and to learn about hunger in their community.

During the 1997-98 school year the Prospect School program served a total of 47 students. Forty-three tutors, including OCSC staff, Oberlin College students, and community volunteers, provided over 1,700 hours of care and assistance.

### **OBERLIN COLLEGE STUDENTS**

OCSC is a team effort, and Oberlin College student workers are an essential element. In addition to the Executive Director and the Client Services Coordinator, agency staff is composed of Oberlin College work-study students. Hard working and dedicated, these workers enable us to provide much needed services to the surrounding community.

This year, however, student workers were especially vital to OCSC. When the Client Services Coordinator resigned in February, student workers sprang into action, taking on additional roles in order to meet the needs of clients and to maintain many of the agency's on-going programs.

Part of the OCSC tradition since 1983, student workers have been critical to the success of programs such as food distribution, tutoring, and information/referral. Furthermore, the agency affords students the opportunity to engage in service-learning. By participating in various OCSC programs or carrying out independent research projects, students can supplement their in-class learning with real life experience.

Several of the Oberlin College students in the tutoring program spoke movingly about how wonderfully humbling their work was and how much pleasure they got from "giving something back to the community." Our tie with Oberlin College is vital and we hope to see it nurtured.

# OCSC SCRAPBOOK



OCSC Executive Director shows student new ways of approaching math problem.



A fourth grader from the after-school math tutoring program helps count food in preparation for OCSC's monthly mass food distribution.



Fourth Grade Tutoring Coordinators: Sara Nemitz, Jake Leos-Urbel and Danielle Hirsch.



An OCSC staff member works closely with two high school students in the summer proficiency workshop.



When working with a student over a period of several months, bonds are often formed...

## YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

4/1/97 - 3/31/98

| EXPENSES                   | OCSC<br>FUND | INTERAGENCY<br>FUND | TOTAL   |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------|
| Salaries/Benefits          | 97,460       | 32,526              | 129,985 |
| Other Operating Expenses   | 45,668       | 14,507              | 60,175  |
| Emergency Assistance       | 71,197       |                     | 71,197  |
| To cash flow reserve       | 31,709       |                     | 31,709  |
| <b>Total</b>               | 246,033      | 47,033              | 293,066 |
| <b>REVENUES</b>            |              |                     |         |
| Contributions              | 44,906       | 9,480               | 54,386  |
| Foundations                | 13,650       | 17,800              | 31,450  |
| Associated Organizations   |              | 11,155              | 11,155  |
| Unassociated Organizations | 24,018       |                     | 24,018  |
| Government Grants          | 59,896       | 5,186               | 65,082  |
| Service Fees               | 30,214       |                     | 30,214  |
| Investment Income          | 4,473        |                     | 4,473   |
| Miscellaneous              | 10,910       | 3,181               | 14,091  |
| United Way                 | 57,966       |                     | 57,966  |
| From cash flow reserve     |              | 231                 | 231     |
| <b>Total</b>               | 246,033      | 47,033              | 293,066 |

### GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

**Oberlin Community Services would like to thank numerous individuals, many of whom wish to remain anonymous, for contributing to the success of OCSC in the past year. We would also like to thank the following organizations, groups, and churches for their hard work and generous contributions.**

#### GRANTS

AEA, Allen Hospital Foundation, American Red Cross, Betterway Foundation, Bill Long Foundation, Bonner Scholar Activity Fund, City of Oberlin, Feinstein Foundation, F.E.M.A., Ohio Goals 2000, Learn and Serve America, Nord Family Foundation, Nordson Corporation, Oberlin College, Second Harvest Food Bank, United Way of Greater Lorain County.

#### CASH DONATIONS

**Clubs, Organizations, Businesses-** Allen Memorial Hospital, American Legion Auxiliary Post #656, Apollo Theater, Campus Cleaners, Co-op Bookstore, Literary and Social Club, NACS/NACSCORP, Nineteenth Century Club, OCOPE local 502, OPEIU, Oberlin City Club, Oberlin College Department of Athletics and Physical Education, Oberlin Consumers' Co-op, Oberlin Forum, Oberlin Rotary Memorial Fund, PremierBank, Senior Forum, Servicemaster, Sorosis, Two Trees Cafe.

**Churches-** Christ Episcopal Church, Christ Temple Apostolic Church, First Baptist Church, First Church, First United Methodist Church, OACM, Friends of Rust United Methodist Church, Oberlin Friends Meeting, Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

#### VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Boy Scout Troop #401, Christ Episcopal Church, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, First Church Youth Group, Girl Scout Troop #356, Lorain City Community and Home, Newman Community, Oberlin High School Hi-Y, Rotary Club, OCSC tutoring program, Temple Oheb Shalom.

#### CHURCHES HELPING OTHERS FUND

Christ Episcopal Church, Christ Temple Apostolic Church, First Baptist Church, First Church, First United Methodist Church, Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

#### FOOD and NON-FOOD ITEMS

Apollo Theater, Christ Episcopal Church, Brownhelm UCC Church, Christian Missionary Alliance, Church of True Praise and Deliverance, East Oberlin Community Church, Exchange Club, First Baptist Church, First Church, First Church Sewing Group, First United Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Hot Meals, J & J Medical Services, Langston Middle School, Misslers' SuperValue, Mt. Zion Church, OC Dep't of Athletics and Physical Education, OC Politics 101 class, OC Rec. Center, Oberlin High School Aerobics Class, Postal workers, Prospect PTO, Prospect School, Rust United Methodist Church, Sacred Heart Church, Senior Forum, Subway, Two Trees Cafe, VFW.

#### HOLIDAY ADOPTIONS BY GROUPS

Allen Memorial Hospital Physical Therapy Department, Bethel COGIC, Christ Episcopal Church, Co-op Bookstore, First Church, First Church Book Discussion group, Girl Scout Troop #356, Handle with Care, NACS/NACSCORP, Nineteenth Century Club, OC Development Office, OC Office of College Relations, OC UNITY, Roose, Birmingham, and Lavender, Rotary Club, and 6 families. The First United Methodist Church provided mittens, caps, scarves and children's clothing. The Church of Praise and Deliverance contributed winter coats. The Co-op Bookstore promoted a "book angels" program.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Oberlin Community Services is a responsive community organization that provides direct assistance, referrals, and other services to Oberlin area residents who need help meeting basic needs.*

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

**Aid to area residents in need of:**

- Emergency Food
  - boxed food
  - baby food and formula
- Non-food Necessities
  - toiletries
  - detergents
- Monthly Mass Distribution of Government Surplus Food
- Utility/ Heating Assistance
- Prescriptions, Clothing, Housing, and Transportation Vouchers
- Holiday Assistance

**INFORMATION/REFERRAL**

- General Information
- Appropriate Referrals

**MATH TUTORING FOR YOUTH**

- After-School Fourth Grade Program
- Summer High School Program

**ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

- Meals on Wheels
- Medical Equipment Loans
- S.H.A.R.E. Food Program



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