



# OBERLIN COMMUNITY SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000

Oberlin Community Services, now entering its 45th year, continued to carry out its essential social services from temporary quarters last year. Those services range from surplus food distribution to planning for tutoring in the public schools. The site on South Main Street was also a hive of activity for other projects, such as community meetings, flu shots, t'ai chi classes, and Sunday worship services.

The major programs of the agency are Emergency Assistance for low-income people and Tutoring for public school youth. Other OCS activities include a backyard garden program, a partnership with the City on low-income housing, and efforts to promote access to technology. These programs involve collaboration with many local and county organizations. OCS also supplies office space and is fiscal agent for the Oberlin Interagency Council and serves as an umbrella for various grassroots groups.

Financial support for OCS comes from a variety of public and private sources. United Way of Greater Lorain County provides major funding. Second Harvest Food Bank supplies food. Individuals and churches also donate food as well as funding. The Oberlin Area Cooperating Ministries through its "Churches Helping Others" Fund, the Rotary Club, and the Bill Long Foundation each provide funds for assistance to Oberlin area residents. The continuing financial support of so many groups, churches, and individuals demonstrates their concern for the welfare of all members of the Oberlin community. In addition, dozens of volunteers donate their time to OCS to help pack groceries, dig gardens, and tutor students. We are grateful for them all.

In February, The Nord Family Foundation trustees voted to donate land to OCS to provide a permanent home for the agency. The land is located at the south end of Depot Park adjacent to the bike path and near the old train depot. A new

5,442 square foot building is being constructed on the site and will be completed in spring 2001. OCS is conducting a Capital Campaign to raise the \$550,000 needed for the project. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to the address below.

## BOARD

Deborah Cocco,	President
Ann Findlan,	Vice-President
Diane Vreuls,	Secretary
Sue Simonson,	Treasurer

Charlotte Baker, Gary Kornblith, Al McQueen, Elaine Orr, Patty Peacock, Linda Slocum, Jaqui Willis.

## STAFF

Ann L. Fuller Ph.D.,	Executive Director
Ann Longsworth Orr,	Client Services Coordinators
Daniel L. Orr,	
Kerry Lowe,	Tutoring Coordinator
Randy Bartlett,	Tutoring Coordinator (9/15/00)
Doris Zbornik,	Director, Interagency Council

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

Ellie Anderson-Genne, Hilda Fehd, Christina Congleton, Allison Duwe, Sarah Eastman, Bryan Engelhardt, Annie Gebhardt, Anya Hankin-Rappaport, Danielle Hirsch, Erik Ludlow-Mallea, Amy Marquardt, Sara Nemitz, Nicole Palmer, Michael Reavey, Luke Shaefer, Emily Silverman, Melissa Wright.

### **Oberlin Community Services**

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## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Oberlin Community Services is a responsive community based organization which helps residents of Oberlin and Southern Lorain County meet their basic needs. Last year, almost six hundred people came through OCS's doors to receive some kind of emergency assistance. The Client Services Coordinator assesses each client's situation and decides how to help them. If we cannot assist the client, we refer them to other agencies.

As an independent social service agency, an important role for OCS continues to be providing information to local residents about programs around the county, and helping clients access those programs when necessary. For instance, OCS hosts a caseworker from the county welfare agency one afternoon each week. The caseworker meets with individuals from the area to answer questions about the welfare department's programs, and assists in signing people up for services for which they are eligible.

The food program consists of daily emergency food assistance and monthly mass distribution of government surplus commodities. Food for emergency bags is furnished by the Second Harvest Food Bank and through donations from churches, organizations, families, and individuals.

OCS operates a utility assistance program, helping eligible residents with heat, water, and electric bills in order to avert utility disconnections. OCS also offers limited rent assistance. Support for utility and rent assistance is provided by F.E.M.A., the City Caring Fund, the "Churches Helping Others," Rotary, and Bill Long Foundation Funds, and the Salvation Army.

The agency distributes a limited number of vouchers for public transportation and gasoline to clients in need of transportation to medical, legal, job, or social service appointments.

OCS provides occasional assistance with medical prescriptions, either through the American Red Cross or through one of our own funds. Demand for prescription assistance is high, as prescription costs continue to rise. We also coordinate Meals on Wheels, a collaborative project with the Oberlin Medical Center, and take orders for the Self-Help And Resource Exchange (S.H.A.R.E.) food program, a collaborative effort with Christ Temple Apostolic Church.

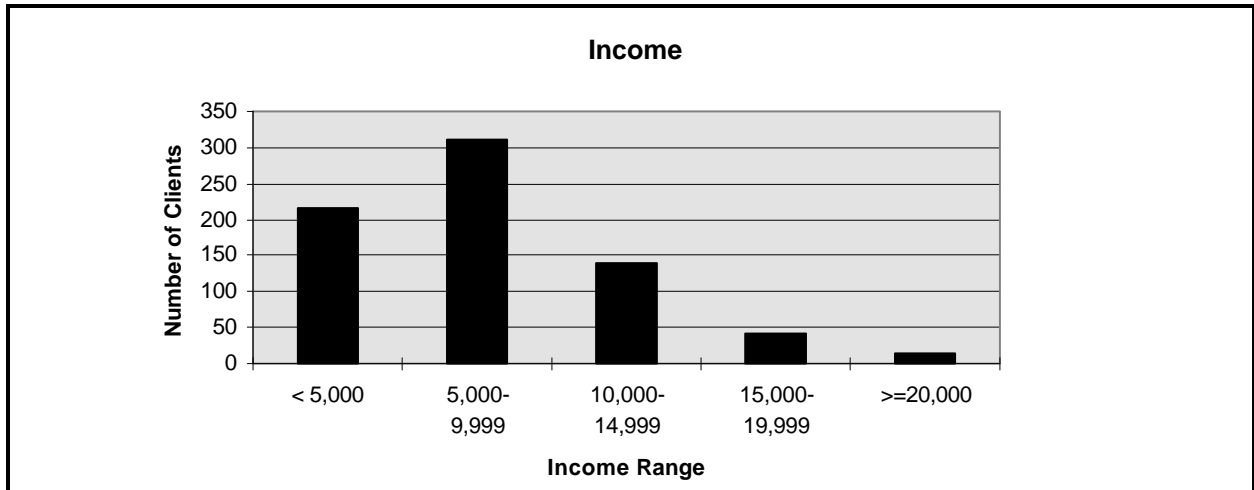
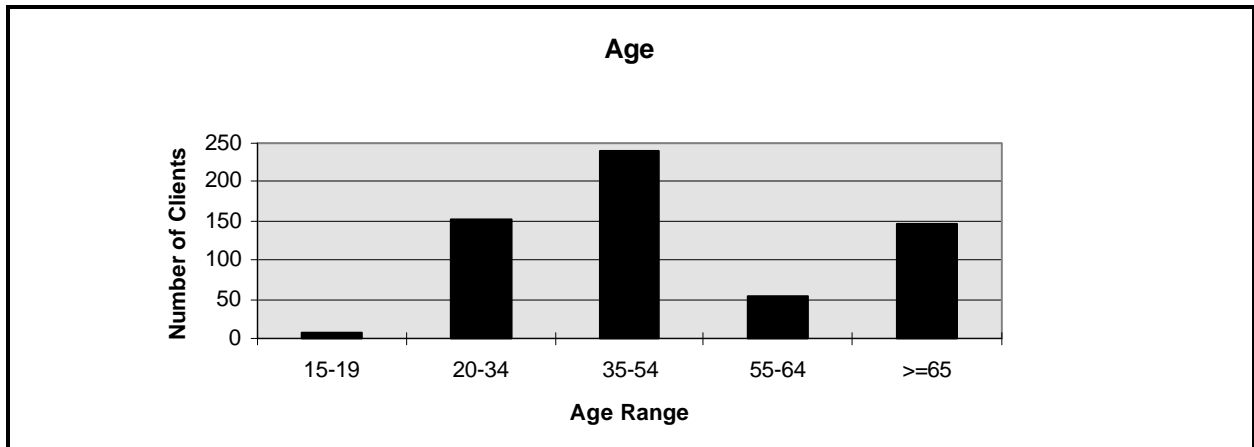
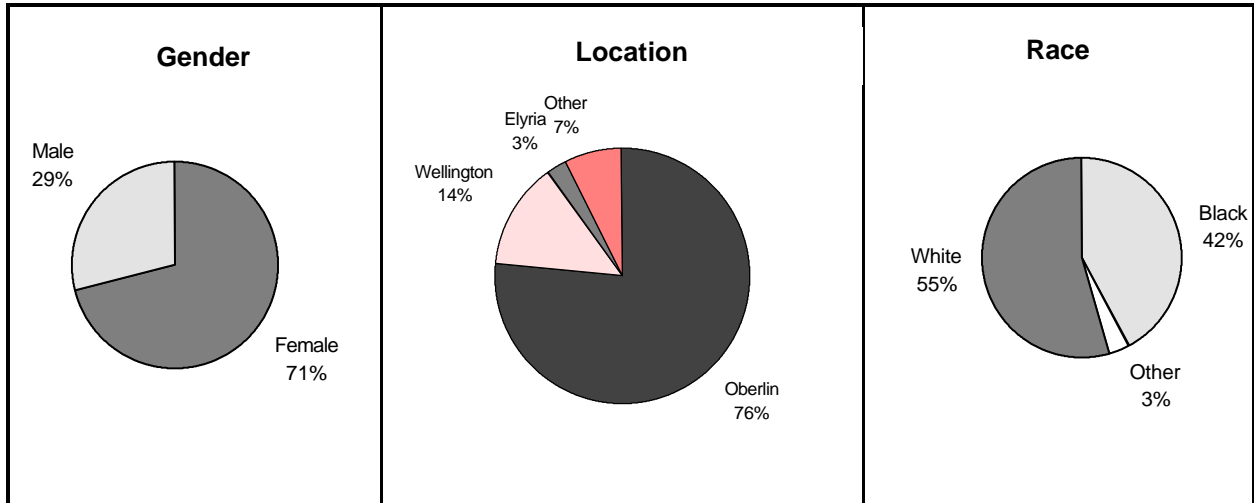
During our annual holiday food program in December, OCS provided food to 535 Oberlinians: 112 families (including 212 children) and 131 single people. Nearly one hundred volunteers helped sort and pack 650 bags of food. These bags, filled with canned and dried goods, government surplus commodities, and meat, were distributed to families based on household size. The Food Bank provided frozen turkeys and a basic food bag through special funding from the Burger King/WOBL "Holiday Cheer" program. Extra items were provided through private donations to the agency.

OCS coordinated a holiday adoption program in which 68 businesses, groups and individuals from the college and town gave 65 families clothing, toys, and other gifts that met their specific needs. The First United Methodist Church provided mittens, caps, and scarves. Each family in the program also received a food voucher to a local grocery store, thanks to donations from Rust United Methodist Church and Oberlin College.

## SERVICE STATISTICS 1999-2000

<b>BOXED FOOD:</b>		<b>OTHER SERVICES:</b>	
# Assistances	674	Utility Payments	94
# Individuals	1,681	Gasoline/Bus Tickets	75
# Bags	1,764	Rent Payments	43
<b>MASS DISTRIBUTION:</b>		Prescriptions	36
# Assistances	2,161	Formula/Diapers	36
<b>TOTAL LBS. OF FOOD</b>	<b>83,002</b>	Taxables/Miscellaneous	207

**CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**1999-2000**



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The **Meals on Wheels** program has been serving the Oberlin community since 1973. Volunteers deliver meals every single day to people who cannot shop or cook on their own. On any given day, about 30 people will receive meals. The service has proven to be especially important to elderly Oberlin residents.

The food is provided by the Oberlin Medical Center with the help of hospital staff Sharon Bailey and Mary Ann Dietrick. Hot meals cost clients \$2.25; cold meals, \$1.25. These fees cover only the cost of food. The volunteer drivers have delivered 14,665 nutritionally balanced meals in the past twelve months.

OCS staff recruits and organizes the 40 or so volunteer drivers. We owe the program's success to those who give their time, energy, gasoline, and friendly concern to see that their neighbors have nutritious, delicious food daily.

This year, we continued to work with the City of Oberlin in promoting and coordinating the **Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP)**. Funded through the Ohio Department of Development, CHIP is designed to improve housing for low and moderate income families in Oberlin by providing downpayment assistance for the purchase of homes as well as loans and/or grants for rehabilitation or emergency repair of

homes to meet state standards. OCS oversees the application process, providing assistance to those who need help completing the paperwork, and verifies income, assets, and household composition information. Completed applications are then forwarded to the City of Oberlin's housing rehabilitation specialist.

In the past year, OCS distributed 144 CHIP applications. Fifty-seven of those applications were completed, verified by OCS, and sent to the City of Oberlin for consideration.

The **Backyard Gardeners' Project**, started in 1998, is another program which provides additional food to local families. The program installs vegetable gardens in the yards of OCS client families and provides each new gardener with a "sponsor" to provide guidance. Last year we installed ten gardens, and in the spring of 2000 geared up to maintain nine of those gardens and install ten more. OCS sponsored a kick-off dinner in April, and organized picnics and educational events for participants throughout the summer. The project's success continues to be in bridging racial and social gaps in town, as well as nurturing good gardeners who are growing excellent crops.

Thirty-five individuals, organizations, and companies have donated to the project. Volunteers put in more than 200 hours in the past year.

### AFTER-SCHOOL MATH TUTORING



A tutor/fourth grader pair takes a break from math.



A group of new friends in our sixth grade program.

## ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



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

In the summer Math Proficiency Workshop, OCS tutors high school students who have failed the Ninth Grade Proficiency Test in math. All Ohio students must pass this test in order to receive a high school diploma. Since 1996, students have been able to retake the test for credit after the three-week session. In 1999, seventeen tutors, consisting of community volunteers, OCS staff, and Oberlin College students, instructed 44 high school students. 36% of these students, some of whom have failed multiple times, passed the test after the workshop.

OCS also conducts an after-school math-tutoring program for fourth-graders at Prospect School. Tutors work one-to-one or in small groups to prepare students for the Fourth Grade Proficiency Test and intervene to prevent future math difficulties. Students form relationships with their tutors, many of which last beyond the end of the semester. This spring, OCS focused on creating a detailed curriculum plan, consistent with state learning outcomes, and improved tutor training.

This year, OCS established a new sixth-

grade math program at Langston Middle School. OCS integrates computer activities into the program, which provide students an opportunity to learn about computers and the Internet, while strengthening their math and critical thinking skills. OCS staff built positive relationships with Langston staff, resulting in a successful year.

During the past year, OCS served 127 students in its three tutoring programs. Eighty-five tutors, including OCS staff, Oberlin College students and community volunteers, provided 3,848 hours of individual care and assistance. Oberlin College tutors were recruited from a wide variety of sources: some were paid under the College "America Reads" program; some received academic credit; and others volunteered.

This year, OCS received a grant from the Nord Family Foundation to build program capacity and to integrate technology into the tutoring program. The grant enabled OCS to maintain and expand operation and enhance collaboration with the schools and Oberlin College. For the first time, OCS had a full-time tutoring coordinator. Kerry Lowe, OC '99, was placed at OCS through Project STRIVE, an AmeriCorps program based at the Volunteer Action Center. She worked with Oberlin College student assistants Danielle Hirsch, Sara Nemitz and Sarah Eastman.

### COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY

Over the past year, Oberlin Community Services collaborated with a variety of community members to promote access to technology beyond its tutoring programs. OCS was instrumental in the formation of a community group dedicated to addressing the "digital divide" in Oberlin.

In April 1999, five people representing OCS, Oberlin College and the Oberlin Schools talked informally about ways to improve student academic performance, coordinate after-school programming, and deal with racial issues in Oberlin. The initial group with widened participation has evolved into the Oberlin Community Technology Committee (CTC). In March 2000, the CTC decided to open a community technology center (later named the

Bridge), renting a vacant space on Main Street. The Oberlin Public Library holds the lease and will receive future grants for the Bridge.

Oberlin Community Services served as fiscal agent for an initial Nord Family Foundation grant to CTC. During summer 2000, OCS used its programming experience to fill an operations gap at the Bridge until a Coordinator is hired. OCS recruited and supervised a college student and a VISTA volunteer, temporarily housing the computers and establishing Internet access at the Oberlin Community Center. OCS did publicity and recruited participants for the week-long "My First Computer Camp." It also used the Bridge computers to enhance the OCS summer High School Math Proficiency Workshop.

## YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

4/1/1999 - 3/31/2000

	OCS	INTERAGENCY	
EXPENSES	FUND	FUND	TOTAL
Salaries/Benefits	130,604	29,264	159,868
Other Operating Expenses	74,837	11,797	86,634
Emergency Assistance	83,190		83,190
Grant Carry-over for '00-'01	53,815		53,815
<b>Total</b>	<b>342,446</b>	<b>41,061</b>	<b>383,507</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Contributions	61,495	7,170	68,665
Foundations	77,261		77,261
Associated Organizations		16,973	16,973
Unassociated Organizations	24,349		24,349
Government Grants	72,720	10,775	83,495
Service Fees	30,353		30,353
Investment Income	9,302		9,302
Miscellaneous	9,430	773	10,203
United Way	57,536		57,536
From Reserves		5,370	5,370
<b>Total</b>	<b>342,446</b>	<b>41,061</b>	<b>383,507</b>

### GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

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

#### GRANTS

AEA, American Red Cross, AmeriCorps, Bill Long Foundation, City of Oberlin, Episcopal Community Services Foundation, F.E.M.A., Feinstein Foundation, Grassroots Leadership, Nord Family Foundation, Nordson Corporation, Oberlin College, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Second Harvest Food Bank, United Way of Greater Lorain County.

#### CASH DONATIONS

**Clubs, Organizations, Businesses-** American Legion Auxiliary Post #656, Apollo Theater, Cable Coop Program Fund, Campus Cleaners, Campus Dining Service, Food Industry Crusade Against Hunger, Ginko Gallery and Studio, Literary and Social Club, Nineteenth Century Club, Oberlin City Club, Oberlin College, OC Department of Athletics and Physical Education, OC Facilities Service/Aramack Corp., OC Politics 105, OCOPE Local 502,OPEIU, Oberlin Rotary Memorial Fund, Senior Forum, Sorosis, UAW Local 2192 - OC Unit.

**Churches-** Christ Episcopal Church, Christ Temple Apostolic Church, First Baptist Church, First Church, First Church Sewing and Needlework Groups, First United Methodist Church and Women, OACM, Rust United Methodist Church, Oberlin Friends Meeting, Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

#### 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

American Legion Post 656, Apollo Theater, Choral Spectrum, Christ Episcopal Church, Christ Temple Apostolic Church, Christian Missionary Alliance, Colors of Rhythm Dance concert, East Oberlin Community Church, First Baptist Church, First Church, First Church Sewing Group, First United Methodist Church, Food Industry Crusade Against Hunger, Grace Lutheran Church, Hot Meals, Kendal at Oberlin, Lorain Co. Academy, Marathon Oil, Misslers' SuperValu, Mt. Zion Church, OACM, OC Food Services, OC Pagan Awareness Network, Oberlin Exchange Club, OSAP, Oberlin High School, Oberlin Missionary Alliance, Ohio PIRG, Postal workers, Prospect and Eastwood Schools, Rust United Methodist Church, Sacred Heart Church, Senior Forum, Sensi-Care, VFW Post 6273.

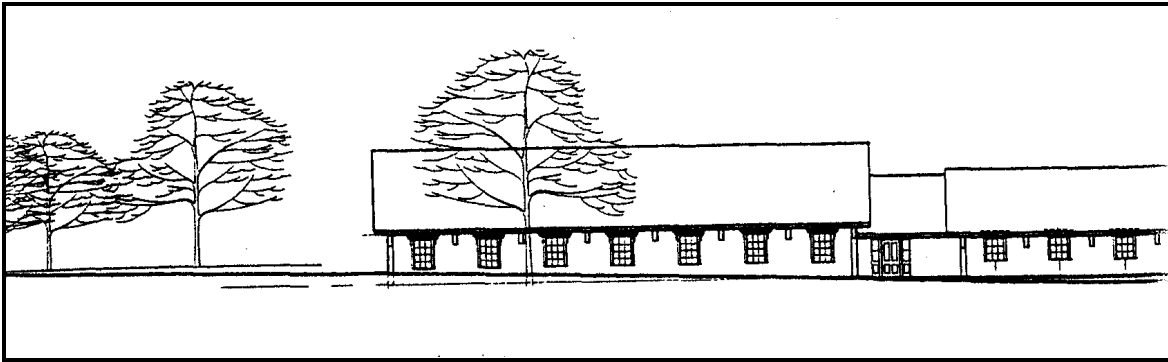
#### HOLIDAY ADOPTIONS BY GROUPS

Christ Episcopal Church, Dascomb and South Halls, First Baptist Church, First Church, First Merit Bank, NACS/NACSCORP, Nineteenth Century Club, Oberlin College Development Office, OC Office of College Relations, OC Student Health, OC UNITY, Roose, and Birmingham, Rotary Club, Western Medical-Handle with Care, and 11 families.

#### VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Boy Scout Troop #460, Christ Episcopal Church, First Baptist Church, LCBMR, John Frederick Oberlin Home, Girl Scout Troop #477, Lorain Co. Academy, Marconi Inc., OC Residential life, Fairchild Dorm, Harkness and Tank Coops, Oberlin High School Key Club, Rotary Club, Sacred Heart Church, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

# OCS SCRAPBOOK



The new Oberlin Community Services building will create a welcoming environment for clients at its new location on South Professor and South Streets near the old Depot.



Eric Nord, B.J. Jones (Capital Campaign Chair), Ann Fuller, and Kelly Belcher break ground with garden shovels on 6/7/2000.



John Mullaney, Executive Director of the Nord Family Foundation, and the Clark and Post architectural plan at the groundbreaking.



Students and volunteers pack bags for the monthly food distribution.



Danny Orr, Client Services Coordinator, and long-time volunteer, Kay Marley.



A gardener, Donald Hill, rests after planting his tomatoes.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Oberlin Community Services is a responsive community organization that provides direct assistance, referrals, and other services to Oberlin area residents and groups 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

**ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE IN MATH**

- After-School Fourth Grade Program
- After-School Sixth Grade Program
- Summer High School Proficiency Workshop

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- Meals on Wheels
- CHIP Housing Program
- Information/Referral
- Medical Equipment Loans
- The Gardeners' Project



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