



CLOSING THE GAPS



SOWING SELF-SUFFICIENCY
CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

2008 Annual Report



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Tasks Unlimited supporters:

Thank you for taking the time to read Tasks Unlimited's annual report for 2008. In these unpredictable economic times, we are grateful for your interest and support.

People who read the paper keep asking me about the financial health and future of Tasks. The first part of the question is easy. As shown on page 6, 2008 was a good year, fiscally as well as programmatically, for Tasks Unlimited. We had a modest surplus and overall revenues were up 10% from 2007.

The future, of course, is more difficult to predict. Tasks isn't the most recession-sensitive organization, but we are certainly not immune to the long-term impact of our national economic crisis, nor unhurt by cutbacks in state and local spending.

"We have to find a way to provide more services to more people...even during a recession."

The demand for good jobs, quality housing and effective support services is at an all-time high, but since some of the payment for Tasks' services comes from third parties, high demand doesn't guarantee increased funding. And I say "increased" because, while other programs might be trying to minimize the reduction of revenues, Tasks has the burden of our waiting list – we have to

find a way to provide more services to more people, and that means we have to grow our revenues, even during a recession.

Revenue growth may seem like a ridiculous or even impossible goal during a recession. But when this organization began 39 years ago, our Founders didn't choose a name like "A Few Tasks" or "Convenient Tasks." They chose the name "Tasks Unlimited." I wasn't there, but I'm guessing they weren't expecting it to be easy. It hasn't been, and it won't be easy, but the demand for the success only Tasks seems to provide is too great for us to quit now.

Thank you for your partnership in helping real people achieve real change.

Respectfully yours,

John Trepp

Tasks Unlimited

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Tasks Unlimited's Mission

To provide supported employment, housing, and on-going recovery services for people with mental illness so that they achieve a full life with the rights and responsibilities of adults in our society.

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Gilbert Bessard – Associate Director
Mary Gaetz – Associate Director

OAKWOOD

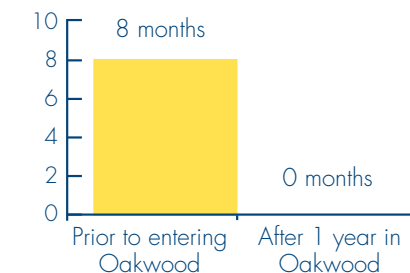
Walking through the door of Oakwood, you're immediately greeted by the laughter of the children in the playroom while the moms are preparing dinner together in the kitchen. This normalcy belies the trauma and hardship these families have endured, but each of them has found the courage to fight for life. But at Oakwood, they don't fight alone.

Oakwood is program for mothers with serious and persistent mental illness and their children. Many of the women came from a background of violence and abuse. Prior to Oakwood, many of the children have been temporarily removed from their mother's care. Children who experience such instability have significantly increased rates of emotional and behavioral problems, including depression, suicidal tendencies, and aggression, and are at substantially higher risk of dropping out of school and/or getting into real trouble – 40% of this country's prison inmates are high school dropouts.

Since its opening in 2003, Oakwood has helped reunite families by providing children with a stable environment, including good schools, appropriate social services, friends, and a future. In 2008, four families have stabilized giving seven children a chance at a normal life. The moms attend regular parenting classes and get the support they need to help them cope with the effects of abuse and neglect as well as their mental illness. There will always be challenges for such families, but both moms and kids are determined to overcome these challenges, creating a healthier next generation.

STATISTICS:

Average number of months children spent in emergency shelters or foster care



Percent of service days adults are NOT psychiatrically hospitalized – **99%**



ROBERTA STILP

"It feels so good to work and be able to take care of my daughter. That's all I ever wanted to do is to take care of Nicole. All I ever wanted was to be able to see her off to school every morning. She is my life and the reason why I work so hard.

As far as I can remember, people would tell me I was worthless. After I was raped, I became completely unable to care for myself, much less my daughter. I even saw 'ghosts' one time. I became so confused and paranoid that I could not even protect my daughter from being molested. For years, I was trapped by my mental illness while my daughter would drift between my parents, my brother and then to a foster home. My heart broke every single time I thought of Nicole and I felt so helpless and alone. 'One day, I'll be free' I would tell myself. One day...

One of my first memories of Oakwood is med group. I sat with the staff and another woman; we took our meds and talked. For the first time in my life, I didn't feel alone and there are people who understand me. However, my best memory is the day Andrea, the Director, called me to her office and told me that Child Protection Services had agreed to give my daughter back. She was coming home.

As I held Nicole in my arms, I looked up and saw all the people who refused to give up on us. Going to work, taking meds, taking parenting classes, getting therapy, and living at Oakwood has worked. Every day, I see more success and gain more confidence that the cycle of mental illness and abuse cannot control me.

Every morning, before I go to work, I pack Nicole's lunch, get her ready for school and walk her to the bus stop. At 38 years old, I'm finally free."

INTERLACHEN

It is a fact that, today, there are more people with mental illness in prison than in psychiatric hospitals. Research reveals that our society has turned to criminal justice, rather than health care, as our primary strategy for managing the behavior of people with serious mental illness. According to the Bureau of Justice (2001), approximately 17% of America's prison inmates – over 200,000 people, suffer from some form of serious and persistent mental illness.

2008 was the first full year of operation for a new Lodge Training Program, Interlachen Lodge, specially designed to change this. Interlachen is one small program, but it offers a beacon of hope for those who want to challenge the paradigm. "It is unfortunate that our justice system is not set up to help people with mental illness, but we're excited that those who previously had no hope can reclaim their lives no matter their pasts," says John Trepp, Executive Director of Tasks. Through Interlachen, people can break the cycle they find themselves in.

In 2008, Interlachen graduated its first clients into permanent housing in our Lodge program and continues to evolve to meet the needs of this particular group of our society. With vocational training, chemical dependency groups, life skills training, and peer support, Interlachen is helping people who have a criminal past reclaim their lives.

STATISTICS:

Never held same competitive job for one year prior to Tasks – **38%**

Never lived independently more than six consecutive months prior to Tasks – **81%**

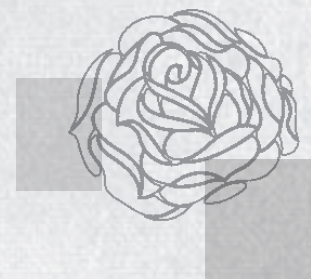
GOING GREEN

When you walk into the lobby of the St. Paul Federal Courthouse, the freshly buffed floors and clean windows are hard to miss. For many years, it took powerful chemicals to buff out the scuff marks on the floors and the dirt and smudges on the windows. Some contained harmful solutions and were potentially causing harm to the environment. In 2008, Tasks Unlimited Building Services (TUBS) began implementing a Green Policy so that, as a company, we can help preserve the one very important resource that we all share – Earth.

As a janitorial company, TUBS maintains over 14 buildings where clients empty trash, wash windows, buff floors, dust, vacuum, and scrub bathrooms. At the St. Paul Federal Courthouse, our pilot program, clients learned to use the newest green technology such as ionized water and bio-renewable cleaning solutions. The green initiative, based on federal LEED guidelines, implements strategies aimed at improving energy savings, water efficiency, indoor environment quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Encouraged by the positive response of the customers and clients alike, TUBS plans to expand the Green Policy to all jobsites by 2010. Not only will there be robust recycling programs but all cleaning solutions will be soy- or citrus-based and clients will be trained to continue to minimize their carbon footprint. "I'm proud of how hard the clients have worked to make sure that we are doing our part to preserve our environment," says Gil Bessard, Associate Director of Operations.

Tasks Unlimited Building Services is deeply committed to reducing our impact on the Earth.



LODGE CERTIFICATION

At the 2008 National Fairweather Conference in Michigan, the Coalition for Community Living Board adopted a set of national standards based on the Fairweather principles that will allow certification of lodges across the country based on their demonstrated achievements in promoting recovery. In the initial review:

- 15 of Tasks' 16 lodges were certified in the top two categories
- 4 Tasks' lodges were certified as "Exemplary" out of only 9 in the whole country
 - Aces
 - Astros
 - Northern Lights
 - St. Clair

Clients are "recognized for their achievements in employment and mental health stability," noted Ashley Trepp, CCL Board of Directors Co-Chair. "Lodges are recognized for demonstrating success in employment, mental health maintenance, group autonomy, healthy lifestyle and giving back to the community through service."

People with mental illness are often isolated by the disease, but at a lodge they are with people who understand what they're going through. "My lodge-mates are my friends. They are my family," said David Gibbons of the St. Clair lodge. Together, David and his lodge-mates are proud of having been certified as an Exemplary Lodge.

Tasks is very proud of our lodges and their achievements in promoting recovery. David put it best, "I have good days and bad days, but living at a lodge was my only hope and now, I have self-esteem and confidence back. I'm living my dream."

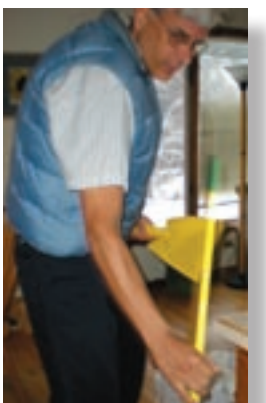


DALE TODD

"The fear that you live with in prison is indescribable – stabbings, gang fights, violence all around you. Serving a 37 month sentence, I spent my days in prison falling deeper and deeper into depression. When I first got to Tasks, it was really hard because I didn't trust anyone, and I especially wasn't used to talking to other people about my illness. My life was pretty lonely.

Once the meds started working, I was able to open up and talk about prison. At the lodge, I always have someone I talk to and trust that they understand what I go through. During my worst days, I can count on my roommates. I never had a best friend, but here, I have five!

When you have mental illness, you don't hear good things about yourself much, but at Tasks, I hear good things and learn ways to be better. I have even found a love for cooking and baking. It makes me feel really good to make something for everyone to enjoy. Everything that I make, my lodge-mates eat up. For the first time in my life, I feel like I'm someone my family can be proud of. For the first time, I have hope that I can wake up and be positive. I'm not alone anymore."



WELLNESS PROGRAM

At any given day, you'll see them walking around the mall. Some of them are faster than others, but there they are, their faces full of determination to enjoy long and healthy lives. All over the Minneapolis area, clients are reclaiming their health from mental illness.

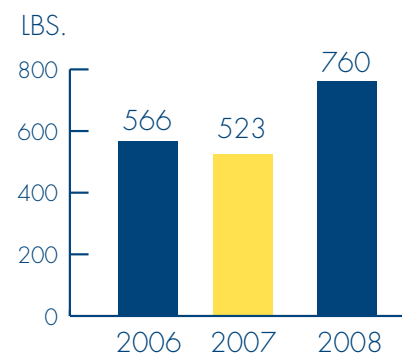
Mental health is inextricably connected to physical health. Through the years, we have found that clients who are physically active tend to have a higher level of long-term mental stability. "I have seen people who struggle with lethargy turn their lives around just by walking or changing their diet a little bit," says Wellness Program Director Michele Colbert.

This innovative program began in 2001 with a simple vision to help clients live long enough to enjoy their retirement. With side effects from medications causing a myriad of issues including obesity and diabetes, people with mental illness can face a shortened lifespan. The Wellness Program provides Tasks clients an incentive to have healthy life habits such as regular exercise, weight management, nicotine cessation, and eating nutritious meals. For their efforts, they receive points they can cash in for anything from bicycles to vacations.

In 2008, 97% of Tasks Unlimited clients participated in the Wellness Program. "This program really makes an impact on people's lives," says Michele. "I can help people take control of their physical health as well as their mental health." Providing everything from nutrition information, healthy recipes, to leading exercise groups, Michele is a constant encourager so that people can enjoy the life they have worked so hard for.

STATISTICS:

Amount of weight lost by clients through participation in wellness program.



99% of clients changed eating habits such as drinking water instead of soda.

24% of clients took steps to reduce or quit smoking.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

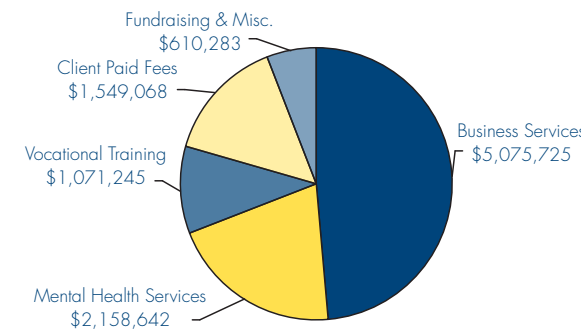
This overview describes the consolidated financial activities of Tasks Unlimited and its affiliated corporations for 2008.

Consistent with previous years, approximately half (48.5% of total revenues) were generated by commercial business services (janitorial, mailroom, landscaping, remodeling, etc.), dependent on the labor of our client-participants. And another 15% (14.8) represent rent and other fees paid by these same client-participants, mostly from their employment income.

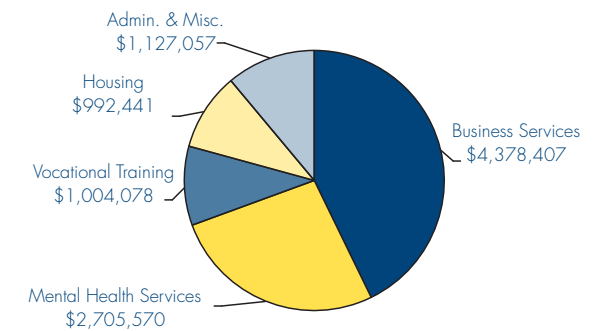
Adding the two together, almost two-thirds (63.3%) of Tasks revenue was earned through the efforts of the disabled people we serve, and less than one-third (30.8%) came from public sources.

We pledge to maintain the highest levels of accountability to continue to deserve your trust. Being able to meet the needs of our clients remains our highest priority and we remain firmly committed to our mission to improve the status of people with serious and persistent mental illness.

Revenue – **Total \$10,464,963**



Expenses – **Total: \$10,207,553**



FERNANDO JOHNSON

"When I was young, I had a lot of dreams. But in my early 20's I started to struggle with mental illness and no one really knew how to help me. For a long time, I stopped dreaming.

There were times I didn't even have a dime in my pocket. I couldn't keep a job long enough to have food so I stayed at shelters or on the streets. Mental illness makes me really confused so I can't focus or concentrate on anything. I always felt really anxious and it would make me frustrated. The only thing that kind of helped to clear my mind was biking so I would ride for hours and hours going nowhere in particular.

Since working at Tasks in 2002, my life is so much better. I have money in my pocket, a home, and lots of friends. I joined the Wellness Program during training and would get up before work at 4 or 5 AM to bike around the lakes. Within a few months, I had enough points to pay for a vacation to Europe. Never in my life did I dream that I would ever see the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, even Big Ben in London.

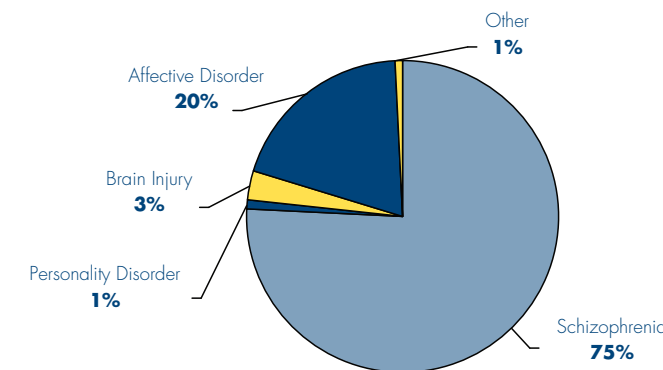
Right now, I'm training for the next Lakeville Iron Man where I'll bike 62 miles. I want to break my record of 4 hours. Biking still helps clear my mind and now,

I can do with other people. Ever wonder how it feels to have your dreams come true? I feel like every day is a dream come true. I know where I'm going now and every day is a gift."



STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

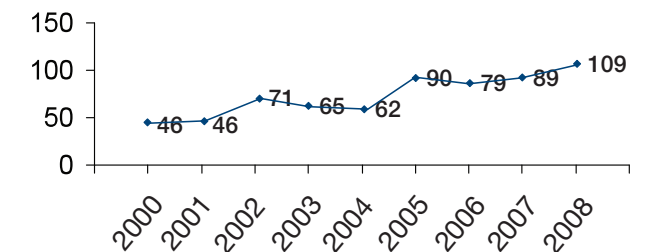
PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS*



* Some individuals may have more than one diagnosis

INCREASE IN DEMAND

We are experiencing a spike in the number of people on our waiting list. There has been an uncharacteristic increase in the number of people seeking our services because of stressors such as the economic downturn.



PEOPLE WHO MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Contributions from individuals and groups are crucial to the mission of Tasks Unlimited. We thank the following for their support from 1/1/2008 to 12/31/2008.

CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

Advogent Group
AMRTC Auxillary
Community Health Charities
Medica Foundation
Mutual of America
Open Door Foundation
Optometric Eye Care (in memory of Dan Teitelbaum)
POPP
The Prudential Foundation
Risen Man Publishing
Steven's Square Foundation
Sundance Family Foundation
Target Corporation (in memory of Dan Teitelbaum)
Terhuly Foundation
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Meghan Bonekat
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Clint & Genevieve Hall
Troy Johnson
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Lucille Ziebol

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Randy Janikowski
Eileen McKee
Bob & Charlotte Rice
Nancy Zats

TABLES FOR TASKS

Many individuals and corporations contributed goods, services, or attended Tables for Tasks 2008 and we want to thank all of our supporters!

We sincerely apologize if we have omitted or misspelled your name. Please contact us with corrections so your gift can be properly acknowledged.