Celebrating
40 years
of helping
people
move from
crisis to hope.

2010/2011 Annual Report
Dear Friends,

Last year we celebrated Common Ground’s 40 years of responding to crisis, keeping people safe and creating communities of support in Oakland and Genesee Counties. Over the years Common Ground has grown from a small all-volunteer organization with a budget of less than $100,000 to a robust organization of more than 200 employees and a budget of more than 12 million dollars.

We have been successful because of the strength of our volunteer service providers, Board of Trustees, staff and community support. Being connected to the community has helped us to be responsive to gaps in services. Responding to unmet needs has been key to our growth over the years.

Celebrating our successes this past year was fun! In recognition of our 40 years of serving the community, we partnered with the talented folks at Project Snap to create our 40th Anniversary Mosaic Mural, which we proudly display at our administrative offices. We also held a reunion where past and current volunteers, employees and supporters mingled, got reacquainted and listened to stories from former teens who were at the agency’s humble beginning.

This 40th anniversary year also helped us to focus on our future. The emergence of healthcare reform and the call for integration of physical and behavioral health care will have great impact on everyone in the health care sector. We have been very involved this past year in a learning group with other human service organizations. Through our work together we are beginning to see new opportunities to deliver better services to more people.

Our learning process has also influenced our work last year on our new strategic plan. Two major initiatives in the next couple of years will be growth outside Oakland County. This past year we successfully started a new crisis program in Genesee County and hope to expand our services there. A second major initiative will be our delivery of Mental Health First Aid, a worldwide training program for lay-people to learn the skills needed to connect people having an emotional crisis to help. The more people in the community that are trained in this valuable skill, the more supportive our community will be to people in crisis.

We have used this last year of celebration to tell our story and we will continue to tell our story to our community through one-hour presentations of our mission called The Crisis to Hope Tour. During the session people learn where our passion for the work comes from and hear stories of how we help people move from Crisis to Hope. These stories are amazing and I invite all of you to take this virtual tour in the next year.

All of you are what make these stories possible. Thank you for all the support you have provided Common Ground in the past and present. We invite you to continue this journey with us into the future.

Tony Rothschild  
President and CEO

Gary Dembs  
2010/2011 Board Chair
In 1969, a graduate student at Wayne State University's School of Social Work was approached by Allison Friedman, a faculty member of the WSU School of Nursing, on behalf of the local Community Action Committee (CAC). The organization needed someone to help a group of teens who wanted to create a self-help program designed to deal with a drug abuse problem in their suburban community.

Norman Olshansky was young, energetic and interested. He met with the CAC, then was interviewed by the teens, who hired him as their director. This was the humble beginning of Common Ground. “We were given the use of a house in downtown Birmingham that we used as the initial headquarters,” remembers Olshansky, who is now president and CEO of the Van Wezel Foundation, an organization that supports the Performing Arts Hall and integrative arts education in Sarasota, Florida. “There was a group of maybe eight or 10 teenagers—from 12 to 17 years old; there was one person who was 18 or 19 and there were the three young adults – Midge Wilson, Ernie Cooper and myself. That was it.”

After operating for a short time without a name for the newly formed organization, the group gathered one evening to brainstorm. A few names were discussed but it came down to four: Open Suburb, Call Erving, Charlotte’s Web and Common Ground. A vote was taken and the rest is history.

Olashansky, who was director for three years and only in his twenties himself, was Common Ground’s first paid employee and quickly became deeply committed to the agency. “Having had experience as a camp director and a volunteer for Vista, I was committed to the concept of community organization. I got hooked because I liked the idea that it was empowering teens to help each other.”

Although empowering teens was a provocative goal, the organization was not well received initially by the community at large. There was a perception that it was a hangout for unruly teens who were experimenting with drugs. Part of Olshansky’s job was to change that perception and provide credibility for the organization. “People began coming to this place where they heard it was safe for kids and they could get help. There’s no question that it was also a social hangout, but that’s what made it effective – it was a hangout but also sophisticated services were being provided.”

Teen volunteers were initially trained in suicide prevention and in how to talk people down from bad trips related to hallucinogenic drugs. But it quickly became apparent there were a lot of other needs in this population that weren’t being met. “We saw a lot of health issues with these kids and all sorts of legal issues came up,” Olshansky said. “I enlisted the help of Dr. John Dorsey and Allison Friedman to set up an outpatient medical clinic and we started a free legal clinic to help deal with the legal issues.”

The days and nights were full of activity. The free medical and legal clinics were both offered two nights a week, but soon expanded to every night. “I didn’t get paid much but this was something I cared about,” Olshansky recalled. “It was this combination of what the kids did and what some significant adults did – that collaboration was what made it work and soon it became a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week operation.”

To help get the word out about Common Ground, Olshansky did a lot of speaking engagements. The honorariums helped cover some of the agency’s expenses. “We were living from hand to mouth, he said. “We got donations from the CAC, Christ Church Cranbrook and some individuals. Literally, that’s how we made payroll, which consisted of myself and Pat Rowe, a teenager who was serving as my secretary and administrator.”

Eventually, with the help of Alice McCarthy, the agency landed its first big grant from the Kresge Foundation. McCarthy, who served as a link between the fledgling agency and Birmingham society, used her contacts and influence to garner financial support for Common Ground. “Alice got involved maybe a year before I left,” Olshansky explained. “She knew where the money was and she got the Junior League involved and introduced me to a board member of the Kresge Foundation, which paved the way for us to receive a $50,000 grant. That took us to the next level and allowed us to move to a larger facility.”

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40th Anniversary Celebration:
The Year in Review

In a year jam-packed with special events and activities, there are a few that stand out more than others. Common Ground’s friends, supporters, former employees and volunteers all helped the agency celebrate a milestone 40 years of helping people move from crisis to hope.

From helping to create a mosaic mural, to Walking on Common Ground, to celebrating the CEO’s 20th anniversary with the agency, to attending a 40th anniversary reunion and more, all would agree it was a very eventful year!

A flicker of hope... continued from page 3

As the first director of Common Ground, Olshansky along with his youthful board of directors, provided the initial vision for the agency. The primary goal was to keep it community based and to serve young people. “Once we established our credibility and people realized we were providing a big service by helping kids and the community, everybody was just as supportive as could be.”

Those services included much more than suicide and drug abuse prevention. “There was a lot of heavy duty youth culture related issues being dealt with by teenagers and college students, he revealed. “Things like rape, abuse, major addictions, runaways, sexually transmitted diseases, knowledge of criminal activity and much more.”

The experience was rewarding he said, but also a lot of work. “I’d get calls at 2 or 3 a.m. sometimes because if someone working the night shift on the hotline had a serious problem, they’d call me to make sure they were handling it right. It was very demanding for all of us involved, but it was extremely gratifying and we made lifelong friends from the experience.”

Even after he moved on, Olshansky still stayed connected. “I stayed in touch with Common Ground constantly because Ernie Cooper and I maintained a close relationship until his death in 2006 and we used to talk and email each other all the time.”

Olshansky fondly remembers his time at Common Ground as one of the major learning experiences of his life. “What was most reinforced for me is that if you give good people responsibility, especially young people, they will rise to the occasion. It was a lot of hard work but it really enhanced my professional career.” He added, “The experience also helped me be a lot more empathetic with my own children when they went through issues during their teen years.”

Olshansky made the trip to Michigan for Common Ground’s 40th Anniversary Reunion in September and was delighted by the agency’s progress since those early years. “You have no idea how impressed I am at how long Common Ground has continued to grow and carry on all these years. I’m in awe of the many volunteers and staff who have contributed to its success.”

Common Ground got the community involved in drawing pictures for a mosaic mural to celebrate its milestone anniversary. Partnering with Project S.N.A.P (Share, Nurture, Act, Preserve,) to create the large scale mural, the finished work is made up of thousands of drawings done by children, teens and adults from the community.

Common Ground was judged Finalist in Crain’s Best Managed Nonprofit contest of 2010.

A flicker of hope... continued from page 3

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The 3rd Walk On Common Ground kicked off at Oakland University’s campus on a beautiful May morning. Fox2 News personality Anqunette Jamison (Q) was MC at the event which helped raise awareness of mental health issues and raised valuable funds to support Common Ground’s programs and services. 

The nucleus of the idea for an agency like Common Ground came about when a couple of teenagers ran a benefit to support Open City, a crisis center in Detroit near Wayne State University’s campus. It occurred to them that a similar type of service was needed in the suburbs, but none existed. They were teenagers who wanted to help other teenagers.

“I was 17 years old,” recalled Bob Crawford. “Jim Balmer and I decided to do this benefit for Open City and as we were doing the prep work, I said we should do something like this where we live. He agreed and we started talking about it and soon began organizing under the name Open Suburb.”

After more discussion, the two teens realized they needed help to make their idea work. “This has got to be bigger. We need to have a meeting to get other high schools involved, not just ours. ”

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“Til heard about the organization of this group,” remembers Pat Rowe Proulx, who is now a married business owner and mother of two adult children. “They were having a meeting at the Unitarian Church to get more students interested in their project. I thought it sounded interesting, but I actually went to the meeting because I thought it would be a way to reconnect with my former boyfriend. As it turned out, he never showed up but I got very involved on the organizational board!”

At the same time, a couple of Oakland University students who were also thinking of emulating Open City, came to the meeting. Crawford recalls, “Gary Rothenberg and Jim Roth, who were working on a similar concept, came to the meeting and we decided to merge.”

The college students brought valuable contacts to the group and got the attention of some movers and shakers in the community. “Gary and Jim were the ones that brought the adult contacts,” Crawford explained. “Jim’s dad, Dr. Roth, became one of Common Ground’s first medical directors set up shop. Before the first director came along and before the first location was secured, the organizational board met at her house. “My mom used to be so very proud,” she said. “It was summer and there were several meetings in my front yard. She’d look out and say “they started here… Common Ground started in my front yard!”

Crawford stayed involved with the agency through 1973, when he went off to Eastern Michigan University. He says the experience guided the direction of his life. The faith and

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A teenaged Pat Rowe Proulx began her career at Common Ground as a volunteer counselor. That trust that was put in the young people running Common Ground is something he’ll never forget. “I remember doing interviews for the director position – and that’s a really key thought. Here was a situation where adults listened to these kids and put them into positions with a sense of equal value. That was so empowering and that’s where my real learning in life came from.”

Proulx, who started off as a volunteer counselor and board member, ended up a paid employee at a very young age. She agrees the experience helped the teens learn how to trust that was put in the young people running Common Ground and develop a call-in information referral system through VISTA in 1976. That system was the forerunner to the agency’s current information and referral system, which now contains more than 1,500 references.

“One of the people I trained was the mother of one of my high school friends,” laughed Proulx. Here I was 17 years old and I was supervising an adult! We became very close but it got kind of confusing – I was calling her Ginny when not long before, it had been Mrs. Ford!”

All the people involved with Common Ground were very supportive of one another and always stayed focused on the agency’s main goal of helping young people in crisis. “This was my peer group, these were the people I counted on,” said Proulx. “This was the group that made me feel that I could do whatever I wanted to do.”

Crawford, who eventually got a master’s degree in social work, said the skills he learned at Common Ground served him well after he left the agency. He’s now an assistant principal at Farmington High School. “When I was in college, all those community organizational skills I had learned from Norm served me well and continue to serve me well,” he admits. (see article on Norman Olshansky, page 2.)

Proulx is amazed at what Common Ground has developed into and until just recently, she hadn’t realized how vital to the community the agency has become. It started to hit her when her adult children confirmed they were aware of Common Ground. “When my son, who is a fire fighter and EMT in Rochester, said to me last year… Mom do you realize how many patients I take over to Common Ground? I feel very proud, my kids are very proud and my parents were very proud.”

When Crawford thinks back to those times, he has to chuckle at how naive they were then. “We thought we were creating something new that would fix everything and there would be no more need for Common Ground because we thought we would change the world that much!” Instead, it became an integral part of the Oakland County community. (Common Ground now helps more than 50,000 people each year).

Crawford and Proulx still have strong feelings for Common Ground. “I’ve always had a passion for the place,” Proulx admitted. “When you don’t focus so much on yourself and you’re helping people, good things happen to you. That’s what this has always been about.”

Added Crawford, “Common Ground provides services that are so critical to our community that no one else is providing. Being community and volunteer based, it allows people to become involved in a way they may never have in another context…and that truly is one of the lasting legacies of our original adolescent ideals.”
A historical timeline exhibit was created and displayed during Common Ground’s 40th Anniversary Reunion Party.

More than One Successful Merger
Results from Common Ground, Sanctuary Collaboration

Back in 1998, two important nonprofit organizations merged operations in an effort to reach more people in need and provide a stronger presence in the community. That business merger between Common Ground and The Sanctuary has proved to be very successful.

A few years before the business merger, there was another merger related to the two agencies – but instead of business, this was a successful merging of two hearts…

It was 1974 and Jan Weiss was an energetic young woman who was active in her community. While working as a volunteer answering the phones at an anonymous hotline, she saw a notice for a job at a runaway shelter. She applied for the job, got it and at 23 became The Sanctuary’s first counselor.

The Sanctuary’s first home was located on 10 Mile Road at the old Eva Briggs Photography Studio, which is now the Walter Reuther (696) Freeway. The house needed some fixing up and Weiss remembers everyone pitching in to get it done. “The house had to have tile and carpeting put in and some handy board members taught us (staff members) how to do the work to get the house ready to open.”

The staff was small—just two counselors, a director and there were “house parents” who lived on the premises to keep an eye on the youngsters, and staff that spent the night when the house parents were off duty. The agency operated like a close knit family. “It was so much fun to work there that people would come in on their day off just to see what was happening—just to read the log or just to talk to the kids,” Weiss recalls. “It was just a really great place to work. We had a great Board, great staff and we all became friends. In fact I’m still friends today with many people that I met through The Sanctuary.”

After leaving The Sanctuary as an employee, Weiss later joined The Sanctuary’s Board of Directors. That’s when she met Paula Shoecraft, who followed her as Board chair.

“Jan and I just really hit it off personally in addition to our professional engagement,” recalls Shoecraft, who was chair of The Sanctuary Board of Directors in the mid-1980s. “We just became really good friends and had lots of fun adventures—we go to comedy clubs and just have a wonderful time together.”

At the same time, Shoecraft was a founding board member of the Food Bank of Oakland County and worked with a young man who was helping to get the Food Bank off the ground. “I got Gary involved to help get the whole program going. At the time, he was working for a public relations firm and was very into community service.”

Mental health issues were very important to Gary Dembs. He had been volunteering at Kadima, an agency, that supports Jewish people who are struggling with mental health issues. He was in line to become president of that organization but began to feel he needed a change. He told a friend who was involved with The Sanctuary that he was interested in getting involved with Common Ground.

The completed Mosaic Mural was revealed during the Anniversary Reunion Party. Three thousand pictures were used to create the 5 feet by 9 feet mural, which now hangs in a place of honor at Common Ground’s administrative offices.

Common Ground was awarded a $20,000 grant as part of Art Van’s Million Dollar Charity Challenge. The funding was used to support counseling services at The Sanctuary.

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Common Ground’s Birmingham Street Art Fair closed out the last weekend in September with great art, activities and fun. More than 160 artists from across the country presented their works of art. The completed 40th Anniversary Mosaic Mural was also displayed at the art fair.

While working with Jan and Gary, Shoecraft realized the two had some things in common and might hit it off. “It occurred to me that here were two people that were just as funny as could be, who were so committed, had great hearts and came from good families. So I devised this whole plan to introduce them at a road rally I was organizing.”

Shoecraft, who now lives in Washington, D.C. and is development director for OMB Watch, a government watchdog agency, explains that she used to organize a fun activity for friends which consisted of driving to different locations to find information to solve a mystery. “We’d meet in Pontiac at a restaurant and find clues and then drive to another location to get the next clue and then we’d end up in one place for a party and dinner.”

The idea was to get Jan and Gary together during the road rally by having them ride in the same car. “I had the whole thing planned and neither one of them knew what I was doing. I was trying to keep it a secret,” Shoecraft admits. “I thought I was being so clever in setting this up, but Gary cancelled! That was when I had to come clean and tell them I thought they should meet.”

After a few months the couple did actually meet. “What I remember the most is Jan and Gary hit it off immediately,” laughs Shoecraft. “It was just amazing that they went so quickly from Jan Weiss and Gary Dembs to Jan and Gary.”

Weiss, who retired as a school social worker from Birmingham Public Schools, agrees. “We really knew pretty soon after we met that there was a connection. Paula introduced us in February, 1986; we got engaged in July of that year and were married in December.”

Shoecraft was in the couple’s wedding and gave the toast at the reception. Everyone in their families knew Shoecraft had introduced them and that put a little pressure on Shoecraft. “My fear through that whole year of them meeting, getting engaged, marrying and even for years after, was Gary’s mom kept calling me the responsible party,” laughs Shoecraft. “It was like if anything ever went wrong it would be my fault!”

And now 25 years later, Jan Weiss and Gary Dembs are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary and Shoecraft couldn’t be happier for them. “They are just like two peas in a pod and what I like most about them is they are still individuals even though they have been a couple for all these years. They are great friends, great people.”

Dembs, who is currently the immediate past board chair on Common Ground’s Board of Trustees and president/owner of Non Profit Personnel Network (NPPN), which helps non-profit agencies become successful in the for-profit world, is philosophical about his and Jan’s matchup. “I think Jan represents the whole Sanctuary component and I represent the Common Ground component. I’m the outgoing chair at Common Ground, but Jan is the permanent Board chair in our marriage,” he laughs. “I think the merger has been a success in both ways.”
Ernie Cooper was present at the beginning, when the seeds of the agency were planted by teenagers who wanted to help other teenagers who were struggling with drug abuse and suicide issues. He was there even before Common Ground was named Common Ground, and stayed until the end of his life.

A middle school teacher by profession, Ernie attended a meeting in 1969 to listen to a group of high school students discuss ways to reach out and help other young people who were struggling with the issues of the day. He was instrumental in the organization of this new agency, created to address the troubling incidence of drug abuse and suicide among Oakland County teens.

Ernie spent many hours and years of his life doing whatever was necessary to support the vision of Common Ground. He served as one of the early chairs of Common Ground’s Board of Directors from 1974-75. He created the first crisis line volunteer manual and served as crisis line supervisor for many years. Although he was very serious about his work on the crisis line, Ernie had a great sense of humor and a child-like love of Oreo cookies, which he brought to his shift every Thursday and shared with everyone who was working with him.

He never stopped supporting Common Ground until his premature death in 2006. Ernie Cooper may be gone but his legacy lives on at Common Ground.

Marsha Zucker began her long association with Common Ground in 1985, when the agency was located in a small building in Birmingham. As the agency grew and moved to larger locations, Marsha moved right along with it because she loved answering calls on the crisis line. She stayed more than 26 years.

Marsha was excellent on the crisis line because she was a good listener and a very caring person who was concerned about each and every person who called. She wanted to help in any way she could, but wasn’t overly sentimental. She was able to see situations clearly and helped the caller figure out a plan of action that was right for them, but didn’t tell them what to do.

At the time Common Ground merged with The Sanctuary in 1998, Marsha was serving on the Board of Common Ground. Her efforts on the Governance Committee, her help with setting up new bylaws for the merged agencies and support in working out the new structure was instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition.

Once the merger was completed however, Marsha did not run for re-election on the Board because the crisis line was where her heart was. She was very serious about her work on the crisis line, but never lost her sense of humor. She always had a smile and kind words for her colleagues who worked the shift with her. She had a strong maternal instinct that provided comfort and support to all she worked with and spoke with on the crisis line.

Marsha lived a life of service – and not just volunteering at Common Ground. Working with the Jewish Federation, she produced a yellow pages-like directory specifically for teenagers who needed help. Her experience at Common Ground and easy rapport with young people made it a labor of love for her. She was active and volunteered at several agencies because she felt it was important to give back.

Marsha was many things to many people—daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. To Common Ground, she was a cherished and beloved volunteer and crisis line worker. Although she sadly passed away last July, she leaves a legacy at Common Ground that will never be forgotten.

Volunteers are the foundation upon which Common Ground was built 40 years ago. Today, that foundation is rock solid. The commitment and dedication of our volunteers continues to be a major reason Common Ground is able to help thousands of youth, individuals and families move from crisis situations to hope for the future.

Every person who volunteers at Common Ground is special. But there are a few who stand out among the many individuals who give of their time and resources.

Ernie Cooper and Marsha Zucker are two people who went that extra mile in their dedication to the work of Common Ground and the people we serve. Although they are no longer with us, they leave legacies of community service, commitment, dedication and love that will never be forgotten. Those qualities serve as a model for Common Ground volunteers now and in the future.

“Marsha was excellent on the crisis line because she was a good listener and a very caring person who was concerned about each and every person who called.”
Common Ground’s programs and services are divided into three areas: Responding to crisis, providing safety and advocacy, and building communities of support.

Common Ground Responds to Crisis:

- **Resource and Crisis Helpline*** is available 24-hours per day, 365 days per year. Trained staff and volunteers provide over the phone crisis intervention counseling, information and referrals.
- **Emergency Psychiatric Services*** Screenings are coordinated for those who need emergency psychiatric assessment or eligibility determination for Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority-funded services.
- **Our Teen 2 Teen Talk Line*** allows teens an opportunity to talk anonymously and confidentially to a highly trained peer about issues the teenager may be facing.
- **Common Ground’s Legal Clinic*** provides one-time legal advice, referrals and counseling to people with legal concerns that range from child custody and divorce to finance related issues. Services are provided free of charge by volunteer attorneys.
- **The Street Outreach Program*** Makes connections with homeless and at-risk youth. Case management and referral services are provided by counselors and peer mentors to youths on the streets, at home, in school, police stations and medical facilities. The program also provides supportive services in the areas of homelessness, depression, suicide, sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse, date rape, birth control, educational assistance, job placement, food and clothing. In addition, the REALife Outreach Center offers outpatient case management including interpersonal and recreational groups and provides a refuge from the streets for youth 12-22.
- **ACCESS*** serves as a telephone and face-to-face assessment service gateway for individuals seeking public mental health services in Oakland County.
- **The Kevin’s Law Project*** works with Oakland County Probate Court to provide psychiatric assessments and community liaison for persons seeking Kevin’s Law (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) orders.
- **Crisis Intervention and Recovery Team (CIRT)** provides recovery oriented mobile crisis intervention to people where they are, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The team serves those experiencing a mental health crisis, helping to de-escalate the crisis situation and link the individual or family to services that will meet their needs. Service is provided to all who are experiencing a mental health crisis in Genesee County, regardless of income, insurance or permanent residence. In-patient hospitalization is viewed as a last resort and only appropriate when the safety of the individual and/or others cannot be ensured.
- **Crisis Residential Units Hendrie*** and **Westcott** provide short-term voluntary psychiatric care for adults that includes medical supervision, nursing and discharge planning. Both of these units provide crisis stabilization services to voluntary patients referred by the Crisis Resource Center as an alternative to inpatient hospitalization or as a step-down from an inpatient unit. These services are designed to support stabilization, reduce symptoms, restore function and prevent additional functional impairment, with the goal of transitioning to a less-restrictive level of care.
- **The Sanctuary**, a free and safe 24-hour shelter, provides 3-week voluntary residential counseling to runaways and youths in crisis between the ages of 10-17, with the goal of reuniting youths with their families.
- **A Step Forward** is a safe and home-like transitional living shelter for homeless youths ages 16-21, who are seeking self-sufficiency. The program provides counseling, job training, career development, educational assistance, financial subsidies and medical assistance for up to 21 months.
- **Graduated Apartment Program** provides subsidized apartment living for people ages 18-23 for up to two years, with a goal of independent living. Services provided include skill development, peer mentoring, graduated monitoring/supervision and 24-hour staff availability.
- **Leasing Assistance Program** provides adults living with chronic mental illness, who are homeless with housing subsidies and supportive services. The program is designed to reach each client where they are and help them develop a greater level of self-sufficiency, interpersonal skills and housing readiness.
- **Victim Assistance Program** provides 24-hour access to counselors and advocates for victims of crime, domestic and sexual abuse and workplace violence. Assistance includes on-site advocacy, death notification, personal protection order assistance and accompaniment of victims to hospitals, police stations and court rooms.

Last year we provided crisis related services to a total of 51,362 individuals and families.

Common Ground Provides Safety and Advocacy:

We advocated for and provided a safe place for a total of 2,173 teens, adults and victims of crime last year.

* Funded by Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority
** Funded by Genesee County Community Mental Health
*** Program falls into two service areas: Responds to Crisis and Provides Safety and Advocacy
Common Ground is extremely grateful for the community support that allows us to offer our services throughout Oakland County and beyond. We are fortunate to receive funding from a variety of sources including government contracts, Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, Genesee County Community Mental Health, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, and contributions from foundations, corporations, organizations and individuals. Despite the challenges we have seen in our local economy, we are gratified to know that our supporters have continued to offer their help.

We extend an invitation to visit Common Ground to see your contributions at work. Our doors are always open and we welcome the opportunity to show that by supporting Common Ground, you truly are making a difference. Please contact Cheryl Rosenman at 248-451-3732 if you are interested in a visit.

We thank you for helping us serve those in crisis.

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We thank you for helping us serve those in crisis.
During a special "Breakfast of Hope" last spring, Common Ground announced the launch of two exciting multi-year giving programs. Both multiple year giving programs are mission-based and designed to assure that Common Ground will be a source of hope for youth, individuals and families in crisis and others in critical situations for years to come. This exciting opportunity allows donors to partner with Common Ground and its mission to help people move from crisis to hope.

Launched in conjunction with the agency's 40th anniversary, the multi-year giving programs were developed for donors who are truly committed to Common Ground's mission to help people move from crisis to hope.

Multiple year Sustainers credits all donors who make a pledge at any dollar amount, for a minimum of five years.

The Legacy Society honors donors who are committed to make positive changes in people's lives and their communities. Membership in the prestigious Legacy Society requires a pledge of at least $1,000 per year for a minimum of five years.

The 2011 Breakfast of Hope represented a change in direction for the agency to a relationship-oriented model of development aimed at engaging individuals who have a passion for Common Ground's mission. To help nurture that passion, a virtual tour of the agency's mission and programs was organized into a one-hour presentation. Over the past year, more than 230 community members and potential supporters have received a better understanding of Common Ground by attending a "Crisis to Hope" presentation and virtual tour of the agency's mission and programs.

To find out more about Common Ground's Crisis to Hope presentations or to join The Legacy Society, contact Cheryl Rossman at 248-451-3732.

**Support 2010-2011**

The following list reflects donations received from October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011. We make every attempt to provide an accurate list. We regret any errors or omissions.

**Business/Corporations**
- Active Network
- Alexander, Eisenberg & Spilman, PLLC
- Art Van
- Astrein Real Estate Investors LLC
- Astrein's Creative Jewelers
- Azar's Oriental Rugs
- Beaumont Health System
- Business Builders
- Camp Fire USA, SEM
- Chrysler LLC
- Consumer Insights
- Dobrusin, Thennisch & Dragon Corporation
- Eagle Recycling, LLC
- Evaluation Services, LLC
- Gates Law Office, PC
- Go Comedy! Improv Theater, LLC
- Gracey Legal, PLLC
- Green and Green, PLLC
- Health Alliance Plan
- Henry Ford Health System – Detroit
- Hertz, Schram, PC
- Hewlett-Packard
- Hoffman, Waytell, Bowyer & Midgird
- Hollingsworth Logistics Management
- Jaffe, Ratt, Hauer & Woss
- JLC Big Beaver, LLC
- JP Morgan Chase
- Kemp Klein Law Firm
- Korotkin Insurance Group
- Kroger
- Law Offices of John G. Rubin, PC
- Lipson, Nelson, Cole, Seltzer & Gann, PC
- Loomis,Saylos & Company, LLC
- Matthews-Hargrave's Chevrolet
- Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans
- Non-Profit Personnel Network, Inc.
- North Pointe Insurance
- Pay Systems
- Privac, Inc.
- Real Estate Gives Corporation
- River Ridge Development, Inc.
- Sherbow & Associates, PLC
- Suzanne E. Dreffus, PC. Attorney at Law
- Teliverslce LTD
- The Damone Group
- The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee
- The Law Firm of John F. Schaefer
- Thornton and Grooms
- Total Employee Assistance & Management, Inc.
- Toyota Suzuho America, Inc.
- Trust
- UBS, Farmington Hills
- Williams, Williams, Ratter & Plunkett

**Foundations**
- AT&T Foundation
- Billy & Sally Wildner Foundation
- Chamberlain Foundation
- Community Foundation
- DeRoy Testamentary Foundation
- Detroit Tigers Foundation
- DTE Energy Foundation
- Kemp Klein Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of Birmingham Central Foundation
- Knudsen Family Fund
- Marshall Matthews Foundation
- Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation
- Meyer & Anna Prentis Family Foundation
- Michael and Peggy Pitt Charitable Trust
- Robert and Caroline Schwartz Foundation
- Rochelle & Randolph Forester Foundation
- The Annenberg Foundation – explore.org
- The Wometrics Foundation
- Village Woman's Club Foundation
- Young Foundation

**Municipalities**
- City of Birmingham
- City of Farmington Hills
- City of Royal Oak
- City of Troy
- Village of Bingham Farms

**Civic Groups**
- (Associations, Schools, Clubs, Organizations, Community Groups)
- Association for Conflict Resolution Michigan SE Chapter
- AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign
- Bloomfield Hills School District
- Charitable Recycling Program
- The Giving Pool
- MissionFish

**Charity Motors, Inc.**
- Clawson High School
- Cranbrook Schools
- Daily Tribune-Give A Christmas
- Fadlay Charitable Gift Fund
- Heart of West Michigan United Way
- KSMoG’s Community Giving Campaign
- Kroger Community Rewards
- Link2Health Solutions Inc
- Marck Partnership for Giving
- MissionFish
- Oak Park School District
- Oakland Mediation Center
- Orion Fellowship Chapter No.340
- Oxford Lodge No 84F & A.M.
- Reed College/CIS
- Royal Oak Lions Club
- South Oakland Art Association
2010-2011 Volunteers – continued

Fred Fechheimer
Marcia Fermita
Nathan Flunder
Shawn Force
Michelle Fournier
Maxine Frankel
Myron Frasier
Lisa Fulgenzi
Myron Frasier
Terry Gahman
Lane Gaddis
Lisa Fulgenzi
Myron Frasier
Terry Gahman
Lane Gaddis

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Jere Jefferson
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Locations

Administration
1410 S. Telegraph
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
Business Line: 248.456.8150

Mental Health Services
24-HOUR CRISIS
AND RESOURCE HELPLINE
248.456.0909
800.231.1127

SANCTUARY YOUTH SHELTER
1222 S. Washington
Royal Oak, MI 48067
248.547.2260

CRISIS INTERVENTION &
RECOVERY TEAM (CIRT)
122 W 4th Ave.
Flint, MI 48503
810.496.4935

CRISIS RESOURCE CENTER
Doctors Hospital
Seminole Building, Suite 100
461 West Huron
Pontiac, MI 48341
1.800.231.1127

Locations

Shelter-Based Services
A STEP FORWARD
1228 S. Washington
Royal Oak, MI 48067
248.399.9795

YOUTH OUTREACH CENTER
691 Orchard Lake Rd.
Pontiac, MI 48341
248.874.1282